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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

United Arab Emirates

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of the United Arab Emirates was held at the 12th meeting, on 22 January 2018. The delegation of the United Arab Emirates was headed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Anwar Mohammad Gargash. At its 17th meeting, held on 25 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on the United Arab Emirates.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the United Arab Emirates: Egypt, Peru and the Republic of Korea.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of the United Arab Emirates:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ARE/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ARE/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ARE/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to the United Arab Emirates through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates stated that a national universal periodic review committee had developed a plan to implement the outcome of the most recent review and met regularly to assess progress. Civil society had played an integral role in that process.

6. During the second universal periodic review cycle in 2013, the United Arab Emirates had accepted, in whole or in part, 107 recommendations. Since then, considerable progress had been made in implementing the vast majority of those recommendations. The national report detailed efforts to protect and promote human rights in key thematic areas: promoting civil and political rights; increasing the protection of workers; combating human trafficking; and empowering women and youth.

7. The rise of extremist forces over the past few years presented dilemmas, not only in the region, but around the world. Governments were grappling with the challenge of how to protect their societies from genuine security threats, while safeguarding fundamental rights. The United Arab Emirates was committed to finding the right balance between meeting its legitimate need for security and preserving its reputation as an open society. It would do so strictly within the framework of its Constitution and laws, while respecting international human rights principles.

8. The United Arab Emirates would continue to strengthen national institutions that would effectively protect and promote human rights and would, in 2018, establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

9. Since the launch of a gradual process of expansion of political participation in 2005, three elections to the Federal National Council had been held. Both women and men had participated in the electoral process, leading to the election of several women to the Council and to the appointment of the first female speaker of any Arab parliament.

10. The United Arab Emirates was among the highest-ranking countries in the Arab world for gender equality, according to the United Nations Development Programme gender inequality index. Women occupied two thirds of jobs in the federal Government, and there were nine female ministers in the Cabinet. More than 70 per cent of Emiratis enrolled at federal higher education institutions were women. Women had become fighter pilots in the air force, and almost half of the Emirati scientists and engineers working to send a space probe to Mars were women.

11. In 2014, a cabinet decision had been issued ordering the inclusion of women on the governing boards of all government bodies, institutions and companies. The United Arab Emirates had adopted the National Strategy for the Empowerment and Advancement of Emirati Women (2015–2021), which had set strategic goals for achieving greater equality in the workplace. It had been a core supporter of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and had opened a liaison office in Abu Dhabi in 2016. In the context of the United Nations, the United Arab Emirates had taken a decisive stand for women's rights in the field of education, and had spearheaded partnerships in support of the women and peace and security agenda.

12. Individuals from many different countries and backgrounds lived and worked side by side harmoniously in the United Arab Emirates, and their rights were fully protected. That melting pot of communities was fundamental to the Emirati way of life. Since the second universal periodic review, the United Arab Emirates had expanded workers' rights and protections with new legislation and more intensive enforcement. Domestic and construction workers in particular had benefited from recent reforms.

13. Reforms to labour legislation in 2016 had allowed workers more flexibility in changing employers. The United Arab Emirates had also enacted several measures, including establishing service centres in workers' home countries, to help ensure that all workers understood the terms of their contracts prior to their departure, and to combat unscrupulous employment agencies in their countries of origin. In 2017, a specific law had been introduced providing greater protection for domestic workers, who had been brought under the oversight of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization.

14. The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking continued to implement an integrated national strategy to tackle the horrific violation of basic human rights that was human trafficking. In 2017, the Federal Anti-Human Trafficking Act had been amended to enhance protection for victims and to increase penalties for those found guilty of that crime.

15. Youth had been prioritized and, in 2016, the first ever Minister for Youth had been appointed to the Cabinet and a youth council had been established. A National Strategy for Youth Empowerment had also been developed, and the Ministry of Education had adopted a five-year strategic plan for implementing an innovative education system to help young people to participate in a world-class, knowledge-based economy.

16. In 2015, a new anti-discrimination law had been enacted banning all forms of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race or ethnic origin, and incitement to religious hatred. The National Tolerance Programme had been adopted and the world's first tolerance charter had been launched.

17. The United Arab Emirates had been at the forefront of the fight against extremism in the region, supporting efforts to drive Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, and to combat Al-Qaida in Yemen and Somalia. It had promoted and empowered moderate voices, both at home and abroad. It was also fighting dangerous ideologies online. Since 2015, the Sawab Centre in Abu Dhabi had been working hard to counter the online propaganda of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and of other extremist groups.

18. In order to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of extremism and sectarianism, in 2016, the United Arab Emirates had distributed over $4.2 billion in official development

assistance to people worldwide, and had maintained its ranking as the world's biggest donor in proportion to gross national income.

19. The United Arab Emirates continued to alleviate the plight of Syrian refugees. Since the onset of the crisis, the United Arab Emirates had welcomed over 130,000 persons fleeing the violence in the Syrian Arab Republic, and had pledged to take in a further 15,000 persons in need of assistance.

20. In Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and the Arab coalition continued to make every effort to support and deliver humanitarian assistance and to protect civilians. Under extremely challenging circumstances, the coalition was working hard to reinstate the legitimate government of Yemen. Since the ongoing conflict in Yemen had escalated, the United Arab Emirates had provided over $2.5 billion in aid and, with its partners, had brought food and water and health care and other life-saving services to millions of persons and rebuilt and reopened a number of schools and medical centres in liberated areas.

21. However, the current humanitarian challenges could only truly be addressed by negotiating inclusive political settlements to the region's civil wars. The political resolution of the crises in the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Libya was of paramount importance, and the efforts of the United Arab Emirates in that field continued.

22. The United Arab Emirates was alarmed at recent statements relating to the status of Jerusalem, and urged progress on ensuring the right of Palestinians to an independent State, which would have a positive impact on many other challenges in the region.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

23. During the interactive dialogue, 97 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

24. Bahrain welcomed efforts to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycle and the progress achieved.

25. Libya praised the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

26. Liechtenstein expressed concern that cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment was judicially imposed on children, and that the death penalty had been retained.

27. Malaysia commended progress in the areas of labour, social welfare, health care, education, empowerment of women, children's rights, older persons and persons with disabilities.

28. Maldives commended steps taken to combat human trafficking, and the National Strategy for the Empowerment and Advancement of Emirati Women.

29. Mauritania applauded developments at the normative and institutional levels, and consistent policies and strategies to strengthen human rights.

30. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

31. Mongolia encouraged the United Arab Emirates to extend an open-ended, standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

32. Montenegro welcomed efforts to improve education for women and children, and noted the need to include measures relating to positive and non-violent forms of child-rearing.

33. Morocco welcomed steps to implement National Vision 2021, the National Tolerance Programme and the national strategy to combat human trafficking.

34. Mozambique commended the submission of reports to treaty bodies covering the rights of the child, of women and of persons with disabilities and racial discrimination.

35. Myanmar welcomed the National Strategy for the Empowerment and Advancement of Emirati Women, while calling for the rights of women and foreign workers to be further enhanced.

36. Nepal encouraged the United Arab Emirates to continue to protect migrant workers, to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and to immediately introduce a moratorium on the death penalty.

37. The Netherlands noted increasing restrictions on rights and freedoms arising from the cybercrime law, the anti-terrorism law, the anti-discrimination law and amendments to the Penal Code.

38. Norway noted the new federal act on domestic workers, while calling for the release from custody of individuals detained while peacefully exercising the rights to freedom of expression and to assembly.

39. Oman praised the adoption of polices and strategies, including the National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood and the National Strategy for Youth Empowerment.

40. Paraguay welcomed the legal and institutional progress made since the previous universal periodic review, including the establishment of the national Human Rights Committee and the Gender Balance Council.

41. Peru acknowledged progress in the human rights situation, especially in combating human trafficking.

42. The Philippines supported initiatives promoting labour rights, the protection of domestic workers and the implementation of reforms and policies for foreign workers.

43. Portugal welcomed efforts to tackle gender discrimination, and to improve children's rights.

44. Qatar expressed concern at continued human rights violations, particularly those relating to the coercive unilateral measures taken against it.

45. The Republic of Korea welcomed legislation to combat trafficking, the Federal Rights of the Child Act No. 3 of 2016 (the "Wadeema" Act) and the National Policy for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

46. The Republic of Moldova welcomed measures to protect children and migrant workers, and encouraged the United Arab Emirates to take further measures to achieve gender equality.

47. The Russian Federation welcomed the establishment of the national Human Rights Committee and the Gender Equality Council, and the adoption of the National Tolerance Programme.

48. Saudi Arabia welcomed the establishment of the national Human Rights Committee, which specialized in considering bilateral, regional and international conventions.

49. Senegal praised efforts to combat human trafficking, discrimination and incitement to hatred, and to promote gender balance in the public and private sectors.

50. Sierra Leone encouraged the United Arab Emirates to ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

51. Singapore commended the adoption of the "Wadeema Act", the National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood and the National Policy for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

52. Slovakia welcomed the accession of the United Arab Emirates to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

53. Slovenia encouraged the United Arab Emirates to take the necessary steps to address the remaining challenges regarding gender equality and the empowerment of women.

54. The State of Palestine expressed appreciation for efforts to improve and advance education, including through the 2017–2020 Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education.

55. The Sudan welcomed steps taken to achieve National Vision 2021, and efforts to combat human trafficking and to strengthen the protection of labour rights.

56. Sweden made recommendations.

57. Switzerland expressed regret at the fact that its recommendations from the second universal periodic review cycle had not been accepted, and encouraged full cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

58. Thailand welcomed the adoption of Federal Act No. 15 of 2017 on domestic service, and the establishment of the Gender Balance Council and the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking.

59. Timor-Leste noted institutions protecting children and youth, and promoting gender equality. It remained concerned that women and men did not have the same rights regarding nationality.

60. Tunisia welcomed the adoption of laws and decrees since the previous review process, particularly those relating to combating discrimination, hatred and human trafficking.

61. Turkmenistan welcomed measures taken to implement review recommendations, including institutional and political measures to promote women's empowerment.

62. Ukraine commended the consistent approach to human rights, implemented with notable success by institutions guided by national policies and strategies.

63. The United Kingdom recognized the change to national legislation allowing State security cases to be heard by the Federal Court of Appeal.

64. The United States of America commended efforts to protect migrant workers, women, children and persons with disabilities, and to promote religious tolerance.

65. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates stressed that the United Arab Emirates would establish a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, in 2018. Accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and a number of other human rights instruments was also being seriously considered. The United Arab Emirates was keen to strengthen its relations with all human rights mechanisms, particularly the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and would extend invitations to special rapporteurs on relevant issues.

66. After the second universal periodic review cycle, the United Arab Emirates had established the Human Rights Committee, comprising representatives of the Government, federal and local stakeholders and civil society organizations. The Committee had diligently carried out the groundwork for the national report through open consultations with stakeholders and civil society organizations. The body, which raised awareness of human rights through its various programmes and followed up on review recommendations, would be revamped after the third review cycle, with a view to enhancing its performance.

67. The death penalty was applicable only in a few cases. The records proved that the United Arab Emirates was not keen to resort to capital punishment. Its relevant systems would be reviewed in the light of the third review cycle recommendations.

68. Regarding reports of torture, the United Arab Emirates would submit its response to the Committee against Torture.

69. Since the second review cycle, the United Arab Emirates had been working to review, revise and sometimes withdraw reservations to certain international conventions. That process would continue.

70. Support centres had been set up in migrant workers' countries of origin to review their contracts, and to ensure that employment conditions were met before their arrival.

71. In 2016, a standard contract had been introduced that reflected all the rights and obligations of the parties. There were requirements in place that the contract be issued in a language that was understood by the prospective worker and that the corresponding file would be submitted to the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization to ensure compliance.

72. Since 2016, employees with a standard, open-ended contract had been able to change employers after giving three months' notice. Employees with a fixed-term contract could change employers without giving prior notice.

73. Workers must be provided with accommodation and a salary. Employers were liable to a fine of 1,000 dirhams in cases where salary payments were delayed by two months. Workers had the right to recourse or remedy through the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization and, ultimately, through a tribunal.

74. The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood oversaw the implementation of the strategies regarding childhood and children with disabilities. The goals of the National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood included caring for mothers and children within a sustainable healthy environment, and strengthening an integrated and comprehensive child protection system. The main goal of the strategy for children with disabilities was to strengthen the mainstreaming of their rights into all policies and programmes, and to enhance their participation in an inclusive society.

75. Concerning human trafficking, the United Arab Emirates had tightened legislation and created a social support system to address cases and to rehabilitate victims. International cooperation was vital, given that the United Arab Emirates was an attractive economy and a transit country for persons from across the world.

76. The United Arab Emirates had set up institutions to protect women and children from domestic violence, and to immediately provide health, social, psychological and legal support to women in need. Victims were assisted in filing complaints and providing evidence for the prosecution of perpetrators.

77. Uruguay welcomed the establishment of the national Human Rights Committee, and the progress made regarding the rights of women and children and of persons with disabilities.

78. Uzbekistan acknowledged the comprehensive system comprising national strategies and plans on the promotion and respect of human rights, including National Vision 2021.

79. China highlighted the promotion of economic and social development, and the Strategic Plan of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking.

80. Viet Nam acknowledged the legislative steps taken to better protect the rights of migrant workers, including the adoption of Federal Act No. 15 of 2017 on domestic service.

81. Yemen noted the national strategies for the empowerment of women, motherhood, childhood and youth, and efforts to establish an independent human rights commission.

82. Afghanistan commended the adoption of Federal Law No. 2 (2015) on combating discrimination and hatred, and amendments to the provisions of Federal Anti-Human Trafficking Act No. 51 of 2006.

83. Algeria praised measures to protect the rights of contract workers, and efforts made in the field of education and of the dissemination of a human rights culture.

84. Angola welcomed the creation of the Strategic Plan of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking and of the National Strategy for the Empowerment and Advancement of Emirati Women.

85. Argentina welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

86. Armenia encouraged the United Arab Emirates to raise awareness of human trafficking, and to continue protecting and promoting the rights of the child.

87. Australia commended the measures to protect migrant workers and to promote gender equality and religious tolerance. It expressed concern that human rights defenders had been arrested without charge.

88. Austria expressed concern about the limitations placed on the freedom of expression and the persecution and arbitrary detention of persons who peacefully expressed dissent.

89. Azerbaijan noted the legislative changes and the establishment of national high-level institutions to protect and promote human rights on the ground.

90. Lebanon praised measures to strengthen the role of women, fight human trafficking and provide support on an annual basis to several OHCHR bodies.

91. Bangladesh welcomed the strengthening of protection for expatriate workers, including through a standard employment contract and the promotion of a wage protection system and of safer working conditions.

92. Belarus welcomed the changes in labour legislation, the approach to enhancing the rights of women and children, and the commitment to fighting human trafficking.

93. Belgium noted the need for further progress, particularly regarding workers' rights, the prevention of violence against women, and the situation of human rights defenders.

94. Benin welcomed the legislative and regulatory measures adopted to promote and protect human rights.

95. Bhutan noted the increased official development assistance contribution and the support extended to United Nations funds and activities.

96. Botswana encouraged the United Arab Emirates to step up efforts to implement the National Strategy for the Empowerment and Advancement of Emirati Women.

97. Brazil welcomed the achievements since the previous review cycle in areas such as women's empowerment, the rights of persons with disabilities and the fight against human trafficking.

98. Brunei Darussalam acknowledged the numerous steps taken to protect and empower vulnerable groups, and to ensure their active participation in society.

99. Burkina Faso invited the United Arab Emirates to provide the Gender Balance Council with the legal, human and financial resources necessary to fulfil its mandate.

100. Canada welcomed the steps taken to strengthen the Federal National Council, and encouraged the United Arab Emirates to expand the Council's role in future legislative reform efforts.

101. Chad encouraged the United Arab Emirates to strengthen cooperation on human rights between governmental institutions and civil society organizations.

102. Chile expressed concern at the fact that measures had not yet been adopted to guarantee the effective and prompt implementation of legislation protecting foreign workers.

103. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended the creation of the National Strategy for the Empowerment and Advancement of Emirati Women and of the Gender Balance Council.

104. Cuba recognized efforts to reduce the gender gap in the public and private sectors, and asked about the progress made by the Gender Balance Council.

105. Cyprus welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

106. Czechia acknowledged the progress made in several human rights areas, and encouraged the United Arab Emirates to continue its efforts in that regard.

107. Denmark welcomed the introduction of a new law to protect domestic workers, however, it expressed concern at continuing discrimination against women and girls.

108. Egypt praised the cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, and the establishment of the Gender Balance Council and of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

109. Estonia encouraged the United Arab Emirates to enhance cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including by accepting requests for visits from the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

110. The head of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates stated that the domestic authorities did not arbitrarily arrest or detain anyone, and that all arrests were carried out in accordance with domestic legal procedures. Arrested persons were immediately informed of the charges against them, and communication between them and their family was ensured.

111. A member of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates stated that, under the Constitution, personal documents, including passports, could not be confiscated. In order to ensure the implementation of that provision, a circular to that effect had been issued by the relevant ministry. Labour and federal legislation on domestic workers expressly stated that passports could not be confiscated. In the event of confiscation, migrant workers had the right to make a complaint and to recover their passport.

112. Article 53 of the Penal Code, under which husbands had previously had the right to chastise their wives, had been repealed. The Personal Status Law prohibited any abuse by the husband of his wife or her family. In the event of any verbal or physical abuse, a wife could have recourse to the courts, and could request compensation or judicial intervention.

113. The National Policy for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities had been adopted in April 2017, complementing existing federal legislation protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. The term "persons with determination" had been employed in the text of the Policy, highlighting the capacity of persons with disabilities to overcome challenges. A consultative board for persons with determination had been set up, comprising institutions at the federal, provincial and local levels and individuals capable of finding solutions to their challenges.

114. The Gender Balance Council had focused on a number of issues, including reviewing legislation, particularly with regard to discrimination against women. The Council had made significant progress, especially regarding capacity-building for women, their access to the courts and the approval of literature designed to raise awareness of women's rights in the public and private sectors.

115. The head of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates said that tolerance was the key message that the United Arab Emirates was transmitting through its actions in a very difficult regional environment. Among other things, that message encompassed tolerance with regard to religion, ethnicity and race: such tolerance was taught in schools. There were currently around 84 non-Muslim places of worship in the country. One of the major areas of human rights work was the promotion of tolerance through both the Ministry of Tolerance and the National Tolerance Programme.

116. Finland encouraged the United Arab Emirates to engage with civil society in the follow-up of the recommendations, and to re-establish a moratorium on the death penalty.

117. France noted the progress made on children's rights, workers' rights and the place of women in society and their representation in positions of responsibility.

118. Gabon welcomed the "Wadeema" Act and efforts to combat human trafficking, discrimination and incitement to hatred.

119. Georgia commended the improvements in women's political and economic empowerment, and encouraged the United Arab Emirates to further strengthen policies promoting women's rights.

120. Germany commended the adoption of a law safeguarding the rights of children. It remained concerned by restrictions on the freedom of expression.

121. Ghana welcomed the adoption and amendment of several laws protecting human rights. It noted that a number of international human rights treaties had yet to be ratified.

122. Greece expressed appreciation for efforts to tackle human trafficking, and to promote women's empowerment and capacity-building through national programmes.

123. Honduras welcomed actions and measures to implement the recommendations received in previous review cycles.

124. Hungary encouraged continued efforts to ensure gender equality, including in the judicial system, and to address violence against children.

125. Iceland commended efforts to empower women, and noted improvements made regarding gender parity in ministerial positions and wage equality for similar work.

126. India commended initiatives to uphold the rights of contract and expatriate workers through a more transparent contract policy.

127. Indonesia welcomed the establishment of human rights units and complaint mechanisms, and efforts to combat human trafficking through the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking and its Strategic Plan.

128. Iraq commended developments at the normative and institutional levels, and the adoption of national plans and strategies to improve the human rights situation.

129. Ireland welcomed the creation of the national Human Rights Committee, and urged the United Arab Emirates to establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

130. Italy welcomed efforts to combat human trafficking.

131. Japan acknowledged the adoption of the National Tolerance Programme in 2016 as a sign of commitment to protecting the values of tolerance and multiculturalism.

132. Jordan praised cooperation with various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, in preparing the national report.

133. Kenya commended progress made in implementing human rights and the support provided to the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

134. Kuwait appreciated the efforts to prepare the national report, and to promote human rights at the national and international levels.

135. Latvia made recommendations.

136. Bulgaria highlighted the voluntary pledges regarding the establishment of an independent national human rights commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

137. Sri Lanka welcomed measures promoting women's rights, and the efforts to combat human trafficking and to improve migrant workers' conditions.

138. Pakistan noted with appreciation the establishment of a committee to respond to communications regarding human rights.

139. The head of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates thanked all the delegations present for their contributions and stated that the recommendations would be a guiding light for the next four years in improving the human rights record of the United Arab Emirates. He reiterated that the United Arab Emirates had repealed article 53 of the Penal Code and had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

140. A member of the delegation said that legislation had been adopted enabling women to pass on Emirati nationality to their children. Over the past four years, the Ministry of the Interior had held 3,500 human rights training sessions for law enforcement officials.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

141. **The following recommendations will be examined by the United Arab Emirates, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

141.1 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other core international human rights conventions (Italy);**

141.2 **Accelerate steps to ratify core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Republic of Korea);**

141.3 **Consider the possibility of acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Slovenia);**

141.4 **Continue work on accession to the key international human rights instruments, including the two core treaties, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ukraine);**

141.5 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in order to strengthen protection of the human rights of foreigners residing in the United Arab Emirates (Japan);**

141.6 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Armenia) (Benin) (France); Accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Australia);**

141.7 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay); Consider the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Peru);**

141.8 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Armenia) (Benin) (France) (Portugal); Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

141.9 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ghana) (Uruguay); Consider the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Peru); Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Republic of Moldova);**

141.10 **Strengthen the constitutional right to freedom of expression by becoming a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Germany);**

141.11 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

141.12 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ghana); Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Republic of Moldova);**

141.13 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile) (Iceland) (Liechtenstein); Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**

141.14 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death**

penalty (Ghana); Consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Republic of Moldova);

141.15 **Establish an official moratorium on executions, and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovakia);**

141.16 **Ratify and accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

141.17 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and enhance cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Austria);**

141.18 **Become a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Allow, without delay, visits of the representatives of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and issue a standing invitation to the thematic special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Czechia);**

141.19 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Liechtenstein);**

141.20 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (France) (Liechtenstein) (Paraguay);**

141.21 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Liechtenstein) (Paraguay);**

141.22 **Take further steps, and provide the necessary resources, to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the ratification of the two remaining Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Slovakia);**

141.23 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Portugal);**

141.24 **Ensure the impartial investigation of all allegations of torture, and move towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Finland);**

141.25 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bangladesh) (Ghana);**

141.26 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Burkina Faso);**

141.27 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, together with other relevant laws (Philippines);**

141.28 **Ratify those international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and consider withdrawing its reservations to articles 2 (f), 9, 15 (2), 16 and 29 (1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Honduras);**

141.29 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and consider placing the human rights of trafficked persons at the centre of any anti-trafficking policies and measures that the country adopts (Afghanistan);**

141.30 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France) (Portugal);**

141.31 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Greece);**

141.32 **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and incorporate that offence into its national legislation (Argentina);**

141.33 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Portugal);**

141.34 **Ratify the Rome Statute, including the provisions on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);**

141.35 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and fully align its legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**

141.36 **Ratify the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Paraguay);**

141.37 **Consider ratifying the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Burkina Faso);**

141.38 **Ratify International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and adapt its national legislation in accordance with this instrument (Chile);**

141.39 **Accede to and implement the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Kenya);**

141.40 **Accede to and fully implement the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);**

141.41 **Continue to take effective measures to further promote and protect human rights in the country, including through accession to international conventions and covenants in this sphere (Uzbekistan);**

141.42 **Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Latvia);**

141.43 **Withdraw its reservations to articles 2, 15 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Finland);**

141.44 **Consider withdrawing its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and harmonize national legislation with the obligations under the Convention (Mongolia);**

141.45 **Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and introduce amendments to its**

national family law to ensure the equal status and rights of women in all matters (Canada);

141.46 **Withdraw the reservations to article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and introduce legislative reforms that provide equal rights to women in the fields of marriage, divorce, property relations, custody of children and inheritance (Uruguay);**

141.47 **Adopt and implement equal nationality rights to guarantee, in particular, women's rights and gender equality, including by lifting reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Kenya);**

141.48 **Further strengthen its cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Pakistan);**

141.49 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

141.50 **Continue to strengthen the State's cooperation with treaty bodies, including the submission of periodic reports in the framework of international human rights treaties (Saudi Arabia);**

141.51 **Submit its report to the Committee against Torture and engage in a dialogue with it (Switzerland);**

141.52 **Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Portugal);**

141.53 **Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Kenya);**

141.54 **Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and accept a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Sweden);**

141.55 **Enhance cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, and extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Cyprus);**

141.56 **Respond positively to the pending visit requests by the special procedure mandate holders, and consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);**

141.57 **Fully cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and accept the pending requests to carry out country visits, including from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Netherlands);**

141.58 **Cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms, including by responding positively to visit requests from special procedure mandate holders (Germany);**

141.59 **Continue its efforts to promote and protect the lives of its people, particularly children, and share best practices in youth empowerment (Brunei Darussalam);**

141.60 **Adopt a national family policy (Oman);**

141.61 **Continue to work on building national capacity in the field of human rights, in accordance with international standards (Oman);**

141.62 **Establish a relevant monitoring mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the National Tolerance Programme (Russian Federation);**

141.63 **Continue its efforts to promote and protect human rights, in line with its national priorities and international obligations (Pakistan);**

141.64 **Promote the role of national human rights mechanisms and institutions in the protection of human rights (Bahrain);**

141.65 **Accelerate the process of setting up a national human rights institution, in the light of the Paris Principles (Mozambique);**

141.66 **Establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ghana) (Greece) (Nepal) (Republic of Korea) (Timor-Leste); Establish a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**

141.67 **Consider establishing a national human rights institution (India);**

141.68 **Establish a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and ensure its effective functioning (Republic of Moldova);**

141.69 **Take measures to establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Botswana);**

141.70 **Promote the establishment of a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Mexico);**

141.71 **Create a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and establish an Ombudsman's Office (France);**

141.72 **Accelerate efforts to establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Georgia);**

141.73 **Establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, to monitor and examine allegations of human rights violations (Kenya);**

141.74 **Take the necessary measures for the establishment of a national human rights institution, including considering cooperation with countries in the region that have already established a national human rights institution (Indonesia);**

141.75 **Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mongolia); Establish an independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Uruguay);**

141.76 **Ensure the swift establishment of an independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Germany);**

141.77 **Finalize the draft act on the establishment of the independent national human rights commission and make it functional (Senegal);**

141.78 **Clarify the mandate and scope of the independent national human rights commission (Egypt);**

141.79 **Accelerate the process of adopting the draft act on the establishment of the independent national human rights commission, in line with the Paris Principles, and the draft federal act on domestic violence (Gabon);**

141.80 **Work towards strengthening and developing the specialized national mechanisms in the field of human rights, especially the completion of the legal procedures related to the establishment of the independent national human rights commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);**

141.81 **Keep the State's voluntary pledges and commitments, including on the establishment of a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**

141.82 **Establish a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and strengthen, by clarifying its mandate, the national institution for the future of women, in line with the Beijing Principles (Honduras);**

141.83 **Develop initiatives in the area of promotion and protection of human rights for the enforcement of the law within the framework of the national human rights action plan (Saudi Arabia);**

141.84 **Continue its efforts to develop a national plan for protecting and promoting human rights (Maldives);**

141.85 **Continue promoting the rights of vulnerable groups through national strategies that have already been defined (Senegal);**

141.86 **Strengthen efforts to promote education and training on human rights (Georgia) (Greece); Strengthen its efforts to promote education and training on human rights (Timor-Leste);**

141.87 **Activate the role of civil society organizations in raising awareness and increasing education in the field of human rights (Bahrain);**

141.88 **Support civil society organizations and institutions to enable them to play their full role in the promotion and protection of human rights (Chad);**

141.89 **Strengthen state programmes aimed at promoting tolerance of and respect for cultural diversity, and at combating discrimination, hatred and extremism (Belarus);**

141.90 **Adopt a comprehensive political and legislative framework for the prevention of, and the fight against, discrimination in all its forms (Honduras);**

141.91 **Take further steps to ensure submission of complaints on an equal footing, and without discrimination for any reason, on all matters that constitute a violation of human rights (Jordan);**

141.92 **Take policy measures to promote tolerance and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation (Iceland);**

141.93 **Take appropriate steps to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and ensure that protection is provided to victims of sexual assault, and that perpetrators are identified, prosecuted and held accountable (United States of America);**

141.94 **Continue to promote sustainable, economic and social development, in order to lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights by its people (China);**

141.95 **Protect biodiversity and stop disastrous environmental impacts, such as threats to the security of migrant birds, the destruction of live coral cover, the change of natural water flow and the destruction of natural seabed when constructing man-made islands in the United Arab Emirates (Kenya);**

141.96 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Mozambique);**

141.97 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes, and commute all existing death sentences (Austria);**

141.98 **Give due consideration to the legal abolition of the death penalty, and to the commutation of all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Liechtenstein);**

141.99 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, as a first step towards its full abolition (Portugal);**

141.100 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, as the first step towards its abolition (Slovenia);**

141.101 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards the complete abolition of this practice (Australia);**

141.102 **Reinstate a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to abolishing the practice (Belgium);**

141.103 **Ensure a moratorium on executions, and consider the complete abolition of the death penalty (France);**

141.104 **Give effect to a moratorium on executions, with the aim of abolishing the death penalty (Ireland);**

141.105 **Consider the adoption of a de jure moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

141.106 **Further consider establishing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

141.107 **Commute all death sentences in respect of drug offences and other non-lethal crimes, and amend legislation such that the death penalty is only available in respect of the "most serious crimes" and compliant with international minimal standards (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

141.108 **Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition, and commute death sentences handed down for non-violent crimes, which should not be considered as being the most serious, such as drug trafficking or those relating to freedom of expression, opinion and association (Mexico);**

141.109 **Stop and investigate all acts of torture and cruel treatment, and prosecute those responsible for its order and perpetration (Qatar);**

141.110 **Prohibit the practice of secret detention, and institute safeguards against torture and other ill-treatment (Italy);**

141.111 **Create a comprehensive national strategy to systematically prevent and eliminate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Eliminate practices of arbitrary detention and incommunicado detention. Ensure accountability of security staff for any acts of torture (Czechia);**

141.112 **Protect freedom of expression and freedom of association (France);**

141.113 **Take further steps to ensure freedom of expression by strengthening the knowledge and capacity of the State apparatus (Indonesia);**

141.114 **Continue to develop legislation and practices in the media sector, in order to promote the right to freedom of expression (Iraq);**

141.115 **Review the legal framework and amendments preventing freedom of expression (Norway);**

141.116 **Take concrete measures to ensure the right to freedom of expression, and review legislation preventing the exercise of the right to freedom of expression (Slovenia);**

141.117 **Continue to take steps to uphold freedom of expression by reviewing restrictive articles within its domestic legal framework, ensuring that legislation is fully aligned with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);**

141.118 **Reform the 1980 law on publications and publishing, and all other related laws, to take into account the evolution of freedom of opinion and expression (Qatar);**

141.119 **Continue to work to amend the Publications and Publishing Act, thus contributing to enhancing freedom of expression, in conformity with the relevant international human rights standards (Lebanon);**

141.120 **Uphold freedom of expression in traditional and online media by removing from relevant laws the restrictions on expressions critical of State officials and institutions and the related administrative and judicial penalties (Canada);**

141.121 **Establish in national legislation the right to freedom of expression and to information, and mechanisms to guarantee its full respect and protection (Mexico);**

141.122 **Decriminalize defamation and include it as part of the Civil Code, in accordance with international standards (Estonia);**

141.123 **Amend the cybercrime law, the anti-terrorism law and provisions of the Penal Code restricting freedom of expression, in order to bring them into conformity with international standards (Sweden);**

141.124 **Guarantee that the application of the anti-terrorism law and the cybercrime law is not an obstacle to the legitimate activities of citizens, human rights defenders and the media (Switzerland);**

141.125 **Demonstrate greater respect for freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly, including by allowing individuals to criticize the Government and hold peaceful demonstrations, and revising the cybercrime law to be consistent with principles of free expression (United States of America);**

141.126 **Release all those detained because of their political views, and stop all practices of secret detention and enforced disappearance (Qatar);**

141.127 **Ensure the protection of human rights defenders (France);**

141.128 **Take steps to protect human rights defenders (Norway);**

141.129 **Take measures to prevent acts of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders and journalists (Latvia);**

141.130 **Take the necessary measures to ensure that human rights defenders can carry out their work in a safe environment, free from harassment and intimidation (Belgium);**

141.131 **Enhance efforts to guarantee the full exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and association, and ensure a safe environment conducive to the work of human rights defenders and civil society organizations (Italy);**

141.132 **Align its legislation with international human rights obligations on freedom of expression, and take concrete measures to protect human rights defenders, including from reprisals for cooperating with the United Nations (Austria);**

141.133 **Take appropriate measures to ensure that the principle of the separation of the powers of the executive and the judiciary is enshrined in the Constitution (Ghana);**

141.134 **Strengthen the independence of the judiciary. Ensure the right to a fair trial for all without discrimination: in particular, reject evidence obtained by torture, and ensure that all arrests are subject to judicial oversight without exception (Czechia);**

141.135 **Continue efforts to address gender-based discriminatory practices in the judiciary (Hungary);**

141.136 **Disseminate the code of conduct for law enforcement officials (Kuwait);**

141.137 **Develop training programmes in the field of human rights to raise awareness among public officials, particularly law enforcement and judicial officials (Libya);**

141.138 **Continue efforts aimed at strengthening the training of law enforcement officials on international law and conventions in the field of human rights (Jordan);**

141.139 **Ensure more effective interpretation services and legal aid for foreign women in criminal court proceedings (Hungary);**

141.140 Amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure that it provides for a maximum limit for pretrial detention (Botswana);

141.141 Take steps to ensure that all detainees have access to a fair and transparent trial (Australia);

141.142 Inform without delay all persons deprived of their liberty of all the charges brought against them, and establish a central register of all detainees, in order to guarantee that their families can immediately locate their whereabouts (Chile);

141.143 Implement existing laws to inform detainees promptly of the charges against them, and permit access to legal counsel for all those accused of crimes, while affording fair and transparent proceedings by an independent and impartial tribunal with all the fair trial guarantees necessary for an accused's defence (United States of America);

141.144 Continue to support victims of trafficking in human beings through specialized national mechanisms (Sudan);

141.145 Continue efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);

141.146 Improve and expand identification and protection procedures for victims of human trafficking and forced labour, ensuring adequate access to support services and sheltered accommodation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

141.147 Take effective measures to fight against trafficking in human beings, and ensure the protection of victims (Angola);

141.148 Continue to combat crimes of human trafficking by tightening the legal penalty, strengthening protection measures, providing the necessary compensation and rehabilitating the victims of such crimes (Lebanon);

141.149 Strengthen the efforts of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, in line with the five pillars of the International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (Cuba);

141.150 Fully implement the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking Strategic Plan and the relevant federal laws, in order to combat human trafficking issues, including the sexual exploitation of children (Japan);

141.151 Continue strengthening its excellent social programmes, in order to improve the living conditions of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

141.152 Continue to take necessary steps, at both the legislative and procedural levels, to ensure the full protection of the workforce in the United Arab Emirates (Morocco);

141.153 Improve the legal and policy framework, in order to further ensure respect for labour rights and freedom of expression (Brazil);

141.154 Issue the Social Action Charter to promote the rights of social workers and to protect the rights of beneficiaries of their services (Libya);

141.155 Amend Federal Law No. 10 of 2017 to specify offences falling under the term "failure to protect an employer's secrets" (Denmark);

141.156 Strengthen efforts to ensure affordable and quality health and social services, in order to improve the overall well-being of children, women and older persons (Malaysia);

141.157 Adopt and implement measures to eliminate stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS (Thailand);

141.158 Guarantee mandatory and free primary education for all children living in its territory (Peru);

141.159 **Put in place access and non-discrimination measures, enabling all boys and girls residing in its country to fully enjoy their right to education (Paraguay);**

141.160 **Continue efforts to uphold education, improve the quality of education and ensure equal opportunities in access to education, especially for girls (State of Palestine);**

141.161 **Continue efforts to disseminate a culture of human rights through the curricula of schools, universities and the law enforcement academy (Egypt);**

141.162 **Continue efforts to strengthen the status of women (Algeria);**

141.163 **Strengthen efforts to promote gender equality (Cyprus);**

141.164 **Further promote gender equality, and better guarantee women's rights (China);**

141.165 **Harmonize gender equality, in order to guarantee equal rights for men and women (Turkmenistan);**

141.166 **Continue to strengthen efforts to achieve equality between men and women and the empowerment and advancement of women (Bulgaria);**

141.167 **Make necessary efforts so that the principle of gender equality is protected at the constitutional level (Paraguay);**

141.168 **Amend Federal Decree Law No. 2 of 2015 to include prohibition of discrimination based on sex (Denmark);**

141.169 **Strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of women and their equality, including by amending Federal Law No. 2 of 2015 to include gender discrimination (Germany);**

141.170 **Modify the laws to enable Emirati women to pass their nationality on to their children (Sierra Leone);**

141.171 **Take legislative measures to enable Emirati women to transfer nationality to their children without restrictions (Slovakia);**

141.172 **Enact legislative reforms to ensure non-discrimination against women, including in relation to marriage, divorce and inheritance (Sweden);**

141.173 **Review regulations regarding women in the Penal Code and in the Personal Status Law (Republic of Korea);**

141.174 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee full access for women to the justice system, and give them equal legal capacity and equal treatment before the courts (Argentina);**

141.175 **Continue measures to empower women and to combat discrimination and violence against them (Nepal);**

141.176 **Strengthen efforts to promote gender equality and to protect women from domestic violence (Myanmar);**

141.177 **Work on the adoption of the law on combating domestic violence (Tunisia);**

141.178 **Expedite the enactment of the law on domestic abuse prevention (Maldives);**

141.179 **Enact comprehensive legislation to address violence against women, including the recognition of domestic violence as an offence (Belgium);**

141.180 **Amend the Penal Code, particularly article 53, in order to repeal the right of a husband to punish his wife, and the right of parents or custodians to punish their minor children by means of physical violence (Iceland);**

141.181 Reform discriminatory evidence standards for prosecution of rape, and train police and judicial personnel in the handling cases of sexual and gender-based violence (Sweden);

141.182 Continue efforts aimed at empowering women in social, economic and cultural life (Iraq);

141.183 Continue to implement the National Strategy for the Empowerment and Advancement of Emirati Women and its relevant cabinet decisions, in order to continue to promote the social engagement of women (Japan);

141.184 Review those legal provisions that hinder women from freely choosing their profession and employment (Peru);

141.185 Continue with efforts to implement the National Strategy for the Empowerment and Advancement of Women, and in the early fulfilment of the voluntary pledges relating to domestic violence and labour rights (Bhutan);

141.186 Work towards enhancing gender equality in society, including by removing impediments to women's free movement and to their free choice of profession and employment (Estonia);

141.187 Continue enhancing the role of women in strengthening democracy and ensuring sustainable development (Azerbaijan);

141.188 Take further steps to improve the participation and engagement of women in political work and in the legislative processes of the country (Sri Lanka);

141.189 Redouble its efforts to enhance women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions (Pakistan);

141.190 Accord special attention to promoting participation of women in public life through the implementation of National Vision 2021 (Russian Federation);

141.191 Continue to adopt measures to ensure the effective implementation of the "Wadeema" Act and the National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood (Singapore);

141.192 Continue efforts to tackle gender discrimination and inequality for all women and children, independently of their status and nationality (Portugal);

141.193 Continue prioritizing and allocating adequate resources for programmes aimed at the protection and promotion of the rights of children, women and older persons (Malaysia);

141.194 Continue to cooperate with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and the entities concerned with children in the State, in the best interests of the child (Morocco);

141.195 Develop operational policies and programmes to protect children from the risks of sexual harassment and abuse (Azerbaijan);

141.196 Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home and in schools (Estonia);

141.197 Adopt a law prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings (Montenegro);

141.198 Abolish legislation that provides for the imposition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment on children (Liechtenstein);

141.199 Raise the age of criminal responsibility to above seven years (Sierra Leone);

141.200 Continue to develop procedures for investigating cases in line with the nature and needs of children (Sudan);

141.201 **Ensure the successful implementation of the National Policy for Empowering Persons with Disabilities (Brunei Darussalam);**

141.202 **Continue to strengthen its collaboration with the relevant civil society organizations, in order to provide better services to persons with disabilities, in particular in education and the labour market, so as to better integrate them into society (Singapore);**

141.203 **Continue the implementation of its national strategy by meeting all educational and rehabilitation needs of all persons with disabilities, in order to integrate them into society (State of Palestine);**

141.204 **Consider further actions to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities in regular educational establishments (Bulgaria);**

141.205 **Adopt the necessary legal framework to ensure that migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, including children, fully enjoy their rights, according to international standards (Brazil);**

141.206 **Continue with the implementation of the initiatives upholding the rights of expatriate/contract workers (India);**

141.207 **Continue mainstreaming innovative approaches to regulating the labour market that would facilitate the provision of due and safe working conditions for all foreign workers (Belarus);**

141.208 **Continue to improve measures to protect the rights of foreign migrant workers, and further improve measures aimed at combating human trafficking, including victim assistance (Sri Lanka);**

141.209 **Further facilitate consular protection for migrant workers, including by informing the foreign consulate without delay in case of arrest or detention of nationals (Viet Nam);**

141.210 **Continue to cooperate with the countries of origin of migrant workers, in order to better protect their rights (Mauritania);**

141.211 **Take concrete steps in policies and measures for better working practices and conditions for foreign workers (Myanmar);**

141.212 **Continue the important work of protecting and promoting the rights of foreign workers (Philippines);**

141.213 **Strengthen the protection of workers, and continue to improve their living and working conditions (Yemen);**

141.214 **Continue to improve conditions for migrant workers through the implementation of recent labour reforms (Australia);**

141.215 **Continue to provide effective protection of the rights of migrant workers by strengthening its labour law to be consistent with international human rights law (Indonesia);**

141.216 **Establish measures to facilitate access to justice, interpretation services and quality legal aid for migrant workers, stateless persons and domestic workers (Sierra Leone);**

141.217 **Strengthen social protection measures for all workers, including migrant workers and women migrant workers (Angola);**

141.218 **Fully implement the domestic labour law adopted in 2017 (Slovakia);**

141.219 **Take further measures to ensure that the law is properly implemented to ensure that domestic workers are protected from abuse (Norway);**

141.220 **Ensure full implementation of recently updated labour legislation, in order to ensure that employers and sponsors fully respect the economic, social and cultural rights of migrants and domestic workers (Sweden);**

141.221 **Enforce newly enacted national provisions in the area of labour law, in keeping with relevant international instruments, including International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Ireland);**

141.222 **Continue to strengthen its labour laws through consistent follow-up of the implementation by employers of rights granted to workers in recent legal reforms, in particular the September 2017 legal changes applying to domestic workers, and establish a national institution capable of addressing migrant workers' need for protection and advocacy (Canada);**

141.223 **Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of migrant workers, including women domestic workers, and the protection of their interests through requisite institutional and legislative measures (Nepal);**

141.224 **Fully implement legislation on migrant workers, including domestic workers, and ensure a transparent and independent follow-up of these issues (Switzerland);**

141.225 **Strengthen the protection of migrant workers, particularly female domestic workers, including by implementing existing legislation, reinforcing inspections and enhancing workers' access to remedies (Austria);**

141.226 **Fully implement its labour laws to safeguard the dignity and protect the rights of workers, particularly foreign and women workers, in full compliance with its international human rights obligations, and develop effective mechanisms for resolving labour disputes (Thailand);**

141.227 **Take further concrete steps to strengthen its legislative and executive measures to promote and protect the rights and legitimate interests of migrant workers against violations committed by employers, including illegally retaining migrant workers' passport (Viet Nam);**

141.228 **Continue its efforts in the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, in particular pregnant migrants (Viet Nam);**

141.229 **Adopt a national policy on older persons (Yemen);**

141.230 **Adopt a law on older persons (Kuwait).**

142. **The recommendations listed below have been noted by the United Arab Emirates:**

142.1 **End the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the State of Qatar immediately (Qatar);**

142.2 **Compensate all those affected by these coercive measures, provide them with fair access to justice and reparation, and bring those responsible for their human rights violations to account (Qatar).**

143. **The recommendations in paragraphs 142.1 and 142.2 have been noted, as the United Arab Emirates considers that they fall outside the scope of the universal periodic review, as stipulated in Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, and thus rejected them.**

144. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the United Arab Emirates was headed by H.E. Dr. Anwar Mohammad GARGASH, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- H.E Ohood Khalfan Mohamed ALROUMI, Minister of State for Happiness;
- H.E. Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-JARMAN, Assistant Minister for Human Rights and International Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- H.E. Dr. Abdulrahim Yousif ALAWADI, Advisor to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Obaid Salem AL ZAABI, Ambassador / Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- H.E. Dr. Saeed Mohamed Abdulla ALGHUFLI, Assistant Secretary General, Ministry of Federal National Council Affairs;
- Mrs. Noora Khaleefa Salem ALSUWAIDI, Director General of the General Women's Union;
- Mrs. Reem Abdulla AL FALASY, Secretary General, The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood;
- H.E. Maher Hamad Ali Obaid ALOBAD, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization;
- H.E. Humaid Rashed ALSHAMSI, Red Crescent Authority;
- H.E. Ahmed Mohamed Nekhaira ALMUHARRAMI, Ministry of the Interior;
- H.E. Ahmed Ali Hashem Ahmed ALHASHMI, Ministry of the Interior;
- H.E Mohammed Ali Mohammed ALSHEHHI, Ministry of the Interior;
- H.E. Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed ALHAMMADI, Ministry of Justice;
- H.E. Mohamed Abdalla ALMUR, Dubai Police Headquarters;
- H.E. Mansour Ibrahim AL MANSOURI, Director General of the National Media Council;
- H.E. Mrs. Afra Rashed Eid ALBASTI, Women and Child Foundation of Dubai;
- H.E. Mrs. Sara Ibrahim Abdulaziz SHOHAIL, Shelters for victims of Human Trafficking (EWA'A);
- Ms. Fawzia Mohammad BADRI, Ministry of Education;
- Mrs. Maitha Mohamed Al SHAMSI, Community Development Authority of Dubai;
- Mr. Dr. Mohammed Ebrahim ALMANSOORI, General Women's Union;
- Ms. Maryam Sallam ALMENTHERI, General Women's Union;
- Mr. Saeed Mohamed Saif ALMAZROUEI, Ministry of Presidential Affairs;
- Mr. Saeed Rashed ALHEBSI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Ms. Amna Abdulla Sultan ALHAMMADI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Mr. Mohamed Abdulla Ali ALSHAMSI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;

- Mr. Mubarak Mohamed ALHAMMADI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Mr. Mansour Mohamed ALJUWAIED, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Ms. Azza Mabkhout Abdulla ALSEIARI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Mr. Abdulrahman Jasem Salem ALDHAHERI, Ministry of the Interior;
- Mr. Jaber Saeed AL LAMKI, National Media Council;
- Ms. Fatema AbdulJalil ALANSARI, National Media Council;
- Mr. Mohamed Rashed ALHEBSI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Mr. Fahad Mohammed ALSHEHHI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Mr. Ali Khameis ESAADI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Ms. Shamsa Mohammed ABDULLA, Council for Gender Balance;
- Ms. Dana Humaid ALMARZOOQI, Ministry of Interior;
- Mrs. Houria Mohamed Ghalhoom ALZAROUNI, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation;
- Mr. Abdulwahhab IBRAHIM ALHOSANI, Ministry of the Interior;
- H.E. Ms. Eman ALFALAHI, Ministry of Community Development;
- Mr. Ibrahim Abdulrahaman ALAMMARI, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation;
- Ms. Naheda NAKAD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Mr. Gerard RUSSEL, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- Mr. Abdulla Mohammed Abdulla Fadel ALNUAIMI, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mrs. Reema Ibrahim Ali ALSHARJI ALMANNAEE, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Saeed Ahmed Mohamed ALJARWAN ALSHAMSI, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Mohammed Saleh Mohammed AQARASH ALSHAMSI, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Dr. Ahmed AOUED, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Dr. Abdellatif FAKHFAKH, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mrs. Dana Omar ZAIN EDDIN, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;

- Mr. Smaïl KHRIS, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Mohamed Belhassen BEN AMARA, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Israel

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Israel was held at the 13th meeting, on 23 January 2018. The delegation of Israel was headed by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Aviva Raz Shechter, and the Director General of the Ministry of Justice, Emi Palmor. At its 18th meeting, held on 25 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Israel.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Israel: Mongolia, Rwanda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Israel:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ISR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ISR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ISR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom was transmitted to Israel through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. In her opening remarks, the Ambassador outlined the commitment of Israel to human rights, which were part of the core values of Israel, and were enshrined in the country's Declaration of Independence and protected under its Basic Laws. She noted the country's ongoing dialogue with civil society in the framework of several joint projects. She also noted the ratification of the core human rights conventions and other human rights instruments.

6. The Ambassador criticized the ongoing discrimination against Israel in the Human Rights Council, highlighting the "infamous item 7" and the disproportionate number of biased and political resolutions adopted against Israel. Nonetheless, she noted that Israel continued to engage with the universal periodic review and other human rights mechanisms in the hopes of reform.

7. The Ambassador noted efforts to host rapporteurs on an annual basis, underlining the recent visit of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

8. Citing the many challenges Israel faced, including terrorism, regional instability and incitement, the Ambassador underscored the efforts of Israel to defend its citizens and uphold their fundamental human rights. She stressed the commitment of Israel to the reconstruction of Gaza, despite the Hamas regime's ongoing terrorist activities, including holding Israeli citizens and the remains of two soldiers. She also noted the challenges Israel faced with the global migration crisis, as well as its humanitarian efforts worldwide, and the ongoing treatment of wounded Syrians.

9. The Director General of the Ministry of Justice presented Israel's recent major developments in the field of human rights. She elaborated on some of the functions offered by the Ministry, including the provision of free legal representation in criminal proceedings by the Public Defender's Office, and the provision of free legal aid by the Legal Aid Administration in civil and administrative proceedings, noting that the provision of free legal aid had been expanded to include victims of sexual offences. She also touched upon the enhancement of access to justice through community courts. Furthermore, she addressed a groundbreaking Supreme Court decision that required the State to provide larger prison cells for inmates.

10. The Director General highlighted various human rights supervisory mechanisms and institutions in the Ministry of Justice designed to oversee the handling of complaints or reports of torture, ill-treatment or disproportionate use of force, particularly with regard to the role played by the Office of the Inspector for Complaints against Israel Security Agency Interrogators, which had been transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 2014; the recent installation of cameras in all Israel Security Agency interrogation rooms, which broadcast interrogations in real time to Ministry of Justice supervisors; plans for the implementation of a similar, real-time broadcasting system for police investigations; and the Department for Investigation of Police Officers, which addressed similar complaints regarding police misconduct. She also described the review mechanisms of the Israel Defence Forces, which ensured compliance with the rule of law.

11. The Director General noted the interministerial committees that she headed, including the committee for eradicating racism against persons of Ethiopian origin, the committee for examining criminalization of the use of prostitution services and the committee to counter the negative ramifications of polygamy.

12. Elaborating on the strong commitment of Israel to upholding human rights, the Director General highlighted the advancement of women's rights, noting the appointment of the first female *qadi* in a Muslim religious court. She also noted the advancement of freedom of assembly and freedom of expression, including the recent cancellation of the Press Ordinance, which paved the way for allowing any person the right to print, publish or distribute a newspaper. Additionally, with reference to the right to work, she described new programmes designed to improve the integration of minorities in the workforce, and elaborated on how those programmes had led the way for increased minority representation at the Ministry of Justice.

13. The Director General described the active and vibrant role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Israel, and their constructive discourse with the Government, as well as the Attorney General's strong support for such dialogue, which had been conveyed in a letter circulated to all legal advisers in the various government ministries — while stressing the need to verify information received from certain NGOs. She also noted a joint project with NGOs that was focused on enhancing NGO participation in the reporting process for the United Nations human rights committees, and described the six round-table discussions held between the Government, civil society and academics prior to the current universal periodic review session.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

14. During the interactive dialogue, 78 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

15. Jordan expressed concern at violations of the rights of the Palestinian people and attempts to prejudice the identity of occupied Jerusalem.

16. Libya highlighted the lack of cooperation with the international commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict.

17. Madagascar welcomed legal measures to address the gender wage gap but was concerned by the excessive use of force by the security forces.

18. Malaysia indicated that the Palestinians would only enjoy their fundamental freedoms with the end of the illegal occupation of the occupied territories.

19. Maldives noted reforms of the juvenile justice system but observed that they had not been implemented equally in regard to Palestinian children.

20. Mexico welcomed measures to eliminate gender-based violence and to promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

21. Montenegro encouraged Israel to remain committed to pursuing a disability rights agenda.

22. Mozambique commended the ratification of international instruments and the submission of reports to various treaty bodies.

23. Myanmar was encouraged by the commitment of Israel to protecting children's rights through various measures.

24. Namibia urged Israel to reconsider the proposed bill providing for the application of the death penalty to persons convicted of terrorism.

25. Nepal encouraged Israel to continue its practice of fighting trafficking in persons by opening up regular channels of migration.

26. The Netherlands commended Israel for its vibrant democracy but was concerned about increasing pressure on independent human rights organizations.

27. Norway commended the progressive stance of Israel on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights but was deeply concerned about the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

28. Paraguay commended Israel for developments in its national legislation regarding violence against women.

29. Poland welcomed developments in the context of gender equality, particularly legislative amendments and policy measures.

30. Portugal welcomed the establishment of the Ministerial Committee on Social Equality to promote gender equality.

31. The State of Palestine noted that Israel had not implemented recommendations set forth by United Nations bodies for the last 50 years.

32. The Republic of Korea encouraged Israel to further strengthen its commitment to ensure the universality of human rights.

33. Romania welcomed the dialogue with civil society organizations, and the introduction of the "round tables" series project.

34. The Coordinator of the National Anti-Racism Unit, Aweke Kobi Zena, relayed the events that had led up to the Unit's establishment in 2016.

35. Several incidents of police violence against Israelis of Ethiopian descent had given rise to large-scale civil demonstrations in 2015. In the wake of those protests, the Government had appointed an interministerial team to address the matter, and in its comprehensive report, the team had identified racist government practices and proposed 53 recommendations. The Government had adopted those recommendations, and had established the Unit, charging it with implementing the recommendations and eliminating all forms of racism in Israeli society.

36. The Coordinator outlined the Unit's various initiatives, which included developing a database to document complaints of racism, establishing a public commission to support the Unit, comprised of representatives of civil society and different segments of Israeli society, advancing the formulation by the State Attorney's Office of guidelines for identifying incidents of racial profiling, appointing supervisors to monitor and prevent racism in all government ministries, and establishing guidelines to prevent stereotypes in government publications.

37. The Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, Mariam Kabaha, stressed the importance of the labour market as a vehicle for social change. She gave an outline of the domestic laws outlawing employment discrimination, and of the Commission's authority to file lawsuits on behalf of employees discriminated against, to submit amicus briefs to the courts on employment issues, and to sponsor public service campaigns to raise awareness.

38. Discussing recent achievements in court, and questions raised by Madagascar, Poland, France and Germany, the Commissioner noted a successful lawsuit regarding gender discrimination, and the filing of an amicus brief in connection with a racial discrimination case. She outlined the Commission's various initiatives, including the creation of a "diversity index" to identify wage gaps among the various groups in Israeli society in order to guide related government policies, in addressing those discrepancies; the Equal Pay: Equalizing Wages in Israel's Workforce campaign, and the development of a gender wage gap calculator; joint initiatives with the Government Companies Authority to advance equal opportunity and diversity in government companies, and plans to launch similar programmes for other sectors; and Equal Employment Opportunities Commission campaigns for the integration of underrepresented populations in the labour market.

39. The Russian Federation highlighted violations of international and human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the construction of illegal settlements.

40. Rwanda encouraged Israel to enhance efforts to address patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes through the strengthened implementation of relevant laws and policies.

41. Sierra Leone encouraged Israel to strengthen efforts to promote equal treatment for all those living in its territories.

42. Singapore commended the achievements of Israel in promoting the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities.

43. Slovakia noted the efforts by Israel to fight racial discrimination, including the launching of a public education campaign.

44. Slovenia was concerned about reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian minors over the age of 12 in Israeli prisons and detention.

45. South Africa stated that Israel was the only State in the world that could be called an apartheid state. It was deeply concerned at the denial of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people and expressed the view that the issue of East Jerusalem and the two-State solution were fundamental to the exercise of that right.

46. Israel made a point of order. It requested that delegates adhere to appropriate language of the United Nations and focus on human rights rather than politicizing the issues.

47. The President of the Human Rights Council recalled that the universal periodic review was a mechanism aimed at discussing the human rights situation of all States Members of the United Nations in a spirit of cooperation. In that context, it was appropriate for Member States to voice their opinions in their statements. Likewise, the State under review was entitled to express its views. He appealed to all speakers to refrain from politicizing human rights matters.

48. Spain welcomed efforts by Israel in the area of persons with disabilities.

49. Qatar stated that Israel had not seriously responded to the majority of the universal periodic review recommendations made in previous cycles.

50. Sweden acknowledged the continued work of Israel to fulfil its human rights obligations.

51. Switzerland remained concerned about reports of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

52. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its demands that Israel as an occupying power: end immediately the Israeli occupation of Arab occupied territories and end immediately the colonial settlements and the policies and actions related to it, as they are considered

internationally prohibited practices violating the rights of the Palestinian people and the rights of the Syrian people of the occupied Syrian Golan; allow immediate unconditioned and unhindered access to the committee to investigate Israeli practices in the Arab occupied territories and other investigative committees and fact-finding missions established by this Council; put an end to the systematic and grave violations of human rights of the Syrians and Palestinian people under occupation, and the provisions of international public law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including detention and torture of, among others, the prisoners and detainees, the last being the Palestinian girl child Ahd Altamimi; and the dean of Syrian captors Sadqi al-Maqt and release them immediately, and suspend the field executions, the last one being executing the Palestinian Ibrahim Abu Thuraya who was disabled and on his wheelchair; stop supporting the terrorist groups, and to stop disseminating false humanitarian allegations as a pretext for this support, in violation of the related Security Council resolutions. Those violations were documented by the latest United Nations Disengagement Observer Force report.

53. Thailand welcomed the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, to further promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

54. Timor-Leste remained concerned about the human rights situation but appreciated the engagement with civil society regarding reporting to treaty bodies and the universal periodic review.

55. Togo welcomed measures taken to implement recommendations of the previous review cycles, and to promote the rights of women and minorities.

56. Turkey expressed concern over Israeli practices violating Palestinians' rights, including the use of excessive force, house demolitions and land confiscation.

57. Ukraine encouraged Israel to take further steps to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycle.

58. The United Arab Emirates noted that the report of the Occupying Authority did not mention the rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and that those rights had been violated for 70 years despite United Nations resolutions. It made a recommendation to the occupying authority relating to the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

59. Israel made a point of order. It stated that the speaker had used language that was not agreed United Nations language and inappropriate in a human rights forum.

60. The President called on all delegations to use language that was appropriate to the forum, avoid disrespectful language and uphold United Nations standards when referring to countries and territories.

61. The United Arab Emirates responded that the right of self-determination is recognized in International Law.

62. The United Kingdom noted steps taken to eradicate forced labour and human trafficking. It remained concerned about children in detention.

63. The United States of America inquired about measures to continue to ensure that all components of society had an effective voice in civil affairs, to minimize administrative detention orders and guarantee that all detainees could effectively challenge in court the legal basis of detention, and to provide improved access to education, land, housing, health care and employment to Arab Israelis and Bedouins.

64. Uruguay highlighted the commitment of Israel to gender equality and encouraged continuing efforts to guarantee the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

65. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela regretted Israel's disregard for universal periodic review recommendations.

66. Albania applauded Israel for its dedication to gender-based equality and asked about its experience in combating human trafficking.

67. Algeria deplored the refusal of Israel to recognize the applicability of its international obligations with respect to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

68. Angola encouraged Israel to continue to promote the economic, social and cultural rights of all peoples without discrimination.

69. Argentina welcomed the delegation.

70. Australia encouraged Israel to implement fully the Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill.

71. Austria underscored that any detention of children must be a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time.

72. Bahrain was concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in the occupied territories and strongly condemned settlement expansion.

73. Belgium expressed concern about lack of progress on issues such as the increase of restrictions on civil society organizations.

74. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the delegation.

75. Botswana highlighted lack of cooperation by Israel with several United Nations human rights mechanisms.

76. Brazil encouraged expanded cooperation with special procedures by extending a standing invitation.

77. Bulgaria highlighted Israel's engagement with the Human Rights Council. It noted Israel's resolve to address gender-based violence.

78. Canada recognized Israel's security challenges. It welcomed measures adopted to promote the equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

79. The Commissioner for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Avremi Torem, addressed remarks made by the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Slovakia and noted that the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities was an independent body within the Ministry of Justice, established in the year 2000 and responsible for enhancing equality, fighting discrimination and eliminating accessibility barriers.

80. The Commissioner noted Israel's accessibility legislation, which applied to both private and public buildings and services, and highlighted new regulations on accessibility to education.

81. The Commissioner described the close work with the Ministry of Education on its policies regarding inclusive education. Similarly, the Commission worked with the Ministry of Health, conducting on-site visits to monitor the situation of persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals and housing facilities. The Commissioner also noted a change in the policy regarding the use of restraints in psychiatric hospitals.

82. In response to questions raised by Montenegro and the Republic of Korea, the Commissioner stated that in 2016, the Knesset had amended the Equal Rights Law, mandating an appropriate representation of 5 per cent of persons with disabilities in the workplace. The Commission — which held enforcement powers — filed civil and criminal suits, aided people in realizing their rights, and worked to eliminate barriers to employment and raise public awareness.

83. The National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Dina Dominitz, described her role coordinating both between government agencies, and between those agencies and NGOs, to combat trafficking in persons.

84. Addressing a remark made by Albania about combating trafficking in persons, the Coordinator said that Israel had made outstanding achievements in that field in recent years, owing to the Government's determined and consistent actions in the fields of prevention, protection and prosecution, as well as to constant efforts to forge new partnerships with the business sector, the tourism industry, religious leaders and civil society. She outlined several groundbreaking judicial decisions underscoring the Government's commitment to eradicating trafficking in persons.

85. Highlighting efforts to combat trafficking in persons and rehabilitate the victims, and with reference to questions and remarks raised by Nepal, Paraguay and the United Kingdom, the Coordinator described various initiatives, including State-funded shelters and day centres for victims of trafficking in persons, the granting of work visas to victims, and the provision of medical, psychiatric and psychological care, as well as of State-funded legal aid. She also described the establishment of a special forfeiture fund dedicated to combating trafficking, the training of government officials, and the entry into bilateral agreements regarding foreign workers to eliminate exorbitant and illegal brokerage fees and protect workers when in Israel.

86. The Director of the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women, Eva Madjiboj, responding to questions and remarks raised by Rwanda, Singapore, Thailand and Angola, relayed developments in combating sexual harassment, including: the criminalization as a sexual harassment offence of the publication against one's will of media content, including photographs, videos and recordings, focusing on a person's sexuality; the establishment of a committee to develop a national programme to eradicate sexual harassment; and the campaign to promote tolerance towards the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community.

87. The Director reviewed the Authority's various initiatives, which included requiring gender-mainstreamed budgeting in all government ministries, examining legislative bills from a gender perspective, and a three-year training programme for female advisers on gender equality in local authorities, and in particular in Arab localities. Furthermore, the Authority conducted seminars for school advisers and promoted special programmes for the integration of girls in technological and mathematical studies.

88. Referring to questions raised by Poland and Romania, the Director stated that the Authority was formulating a national programme for combating violence against women, and was advancing the recognition of economic violence as an act of domestic violence, and as a civil wrong.

89. Chile welcomed advances on women's rights and encouraged Israel to withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

90. China called on the international community to continue to support a two-State approach and to support the relaunching of negotiations with a view to a lasting and just resolution.

91. Costa Rica acknowledged progress on gender equality. It was concerned about discrimination and restrictions suffered by the Palestinians.

92. Cuba recalled previous recommendations that it had made and that had not been accepted by Israel on issues including the Gaza blockade and illegal settlements.

93. Czechia praised the conducive living environment for some minority groups, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

94. Denmark commended Israel on its vibrant democratic debate, but was concerned with the shrinking space for human rights defenders.

95. Ecuador noted that despite progress on certain topics, such as the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, worrying problems persisted.

96. Egypt expressed deep concern over racist practices against non-Jewish citizens, especially Arabs and those of African descent.

97. Finland encouraged further steps in efforts by Israel to improve its policy and institutional framework for the elimination of discrimination against women.

98. France welcomed the readiness of Israel to pursue a dialogue through the universal periodic review and hoped that it would cooperate with all human rights mechanisms.

99. Georgia hoped that Israel would further mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities and encouraged the Government to enhance efforts to empower women.

100. Germany commended progress on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex rights while remaining concerned about the human rights situation, especially in the occupied Palestinian territories.

101. Ghana lauded progress since the previous review cycle in promoting women's rights, and welcomed new legislation to narrow gender-based wage discrepancies.

102. Greece hailed the introduction of round tables on core human rights issues and welcomed programmes to benefit minorities.

103. Honduras welcomed measures taken to implement the recommendations received in the previous review.

104. Iceland echoed the observations of the International Court of Justice that Israel was bound to human rights obligations with respect to the local population.

105. India appreciated efforts to empower minorities and noted the progress on the rights of children in the areas of education and health.

106. Indonesia stated that Israel should end practices contrary to its international obligations and improve the lives of the population in East Jerusalem.

107. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continued to deteriorate due to a wide range of crimes committed including the destruction of civilian property in the Gaza Strip, punitive home demolitions, and the systematic expansion of illegal settlements. It stated that inaction should not be allowed regarding the systematic human rights violations by the Israeli regime that jeopardizes credibility of human rights apparatus including the universal periodic review mechanism.

108. Israel made a point of order. It objected to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran with its dismal human rights record pretended to give Israel lessons on human rights. It requested that the Islamic Republic of Iran respect the rules governing the discussion including making proper reference to the State under review.

109. The Islamic Republic of Iran replied that this was the review of the Israeli regime and that its representatives should not refer to my country.

110. The President reiterated his previous ruling calling on all speakers to respect each other's views and uphold United Nations terminology.

111. Iraq noted that since its occupation of the Arab territories, Israel continued to violate the rights of the Palestinian people.

112. Ireland was concerned about the extensive use by Israel of administrative detention without formal charge and the expansion of illegal settlements.

113. Italy welcomed measures adopted to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights, as well as the promotion of disability rights.

114. Japan welcomed ratification of human rights treaties and efforts to protect women's rights. It deplored the continuation of settlement activities.

115. Latvia acknowledged measures taken by Israel to protect human rights.

116. In her final intervention, the Director General responded to the following issues: reforms introduced by an interministerial team regarding the juvenile justice system in the West Bank, including establishing a Juvenile Military Court; training for military youth judges; raising the age of majority to 18; introducing a special statute of limitation for minors; improving the notification to the minor and his or her family of his or her rights; authorizing the military courts to appoint a defence attorney to represent a minor if his or her benefit so requires; further separation between minors and adults throughout the criminal process; aspects of freedom of expression in Israel and human rights defenders, and the lack of restrictions on organizations to promote and uphold human rights; the recent Disclosure Requirement Law, underlining its objective to enhance transparency while maintaining the ability of NGOs to raise funds; recent government resolutions providing substantial budgets to strengthen Arab and Bedouin communities and enable their economic

integration; the prosecution of ideologically motivated offences in the West Bank; and the commitment of law enforcement and judicial authorities to combat all forms of violence.

117. In her closing remarks, the Ambassador stressed the absolute freedom of worship afforded to all religions, in particular in Jerusalem, and in all of Israel. She also clarified that there was no land blockade on the Gaza Strip, and that all civilian goods were allowed into that area. At sea, a naval blockade remained in effect, the legality of which had been upheld by the special Panel of Inquiry of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

118. **The following recommendations will be examined by Israel, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council.**

118.1 **Become a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Albania);**

118.2 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

118.3 **Take steps to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);**

118.4 **Ratify and accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

118.5 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Timor-Leste) (Honduras);**

118.6 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Portugal) (Ukraine) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (France) (Honduras);**

118.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France);**

118.8 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Spain) (France) (Portugal) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Montenegro);**

118.10 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**

118.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Poland) (Denmark) (Madagascar) (France) (Portugal) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.12 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish the national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia);**

118.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and subsequently establish a national preventive mechanism (Ukraine);**

118.14 **Accede to the optional protocols to the human rights conventions to which Israel was a party (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

118.15 **Ratify the seven optional protocols to the conventions to which is a party (Honduras);**

118.16 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Timor-Leste) (Montenegro) (France) (Honduras);**

118.17 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**

118.18 **Consider acceding to Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 (Uruguay);**

118.19 **Remove reservations to article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women relating to equality in all matters relating to marriage and family relations (Ghana);**

118.20 **Withdraw its reservations to articles 16 and 7 (b) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Honduras);**

118.21 **Remove the reservations to articles 7 (b) and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Latvia);**

118.22 **Comply with its international obligations, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention, and abide by all United Nations human rights resolutions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.23 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Timor-Leste);**

118.24 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Albania);**

118.25 **Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (Honduras);**

118.26 **Issue a standing invitation to the thematic special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Allow visits that representatives of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council requested without delay (Czechia);**

118.27 **Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Portugal);**

118.28 **Respond positively to pending visit requests by the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders (Latvia);**

118.29 **Invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders for a visit as soon as possible and without preconditions (Switzerland);**

118.30 **Renew its commitment to cooperation with human rights mechanisms through granting of access to mandate holders and human rights defenders (Botswana);**

118.31 **Strengthen its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review mechanism and take concrete effort to implement its accepted universal periodic review recommendations (Myanmar);**

118.32 **Ensure the international principles of human rights by including them in the Basic Law and legislation (Republic of Korea);**

118.33 **Ensure that Israel's domestic policies are fully compatible with its international commitments under relevant treaties (Ukraine);**

118.34 **Increase efforts to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the human rights treaty bodies on equality and non-discrimination (Bulgaria);**

118.35 **Engage in a dialogue for peace and respect for all internationally recognized human rights (Angola);**

118.36 **Consider establishing a national human rights institution that is in line with the Paris Principles (Thailand);**

118.37 **Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Togo) (Uruguay) (Honduras);**

118.38 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Poland);**

118.39 **Establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

118.40 **Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**

118.41 **Establish an independent national human rights institution which is in line with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**

118.42 **Establish a national human rights institution which is in compliance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea);**

118.43 **Establish an independent national institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);**

118.44 **Establish a national human rights institution with an "A" status in line with the Paris Principles (Portugal);**

118.45 **Carry out efforts to comply with the Paris Principles (Paraguay);**

118.46 **Enhance efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);**

118.47 **Ensure equal treatment for all persons within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, regardless of their national or ethnic origin (Romania);**

118.48 **Ensure the equal rights of all citizens in Israel regardless of origin or religion, grant them equal access to work, education and other social and economic rights, as well as participation in the political processes (Russian Federation);**

118.49 **Continue efforts to promote equal rights and access to justice, education, energy and health services for all people in Israel (Angola);**

118.50 **Assess taking the necessary measures to guarantee equal treatment to all persons subject to its jurisdiction (Argentina);**

118.51 **Take measures to ensure an equal and non-discriminatory institutional approach toward all communities in Israel, particularly Israeli-Arabs and African asylum seekers (Canada);**

118.52 **Combat all forms of discrimination against women, children and minorities, also improving social and economic conditions of the minorities (Italy);**

118.53 **Revise legislation that protects from direct and indirect discrimination of national and religious minorities (Russian Federation);**

118.54 Incorporate explicitly in its legislation the principle of equality and non-discrimination (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

118.55 Explicitly incorporate the principle of equality and non-discrimination into its basic laws, in order to ensure equal treatment for all persons within its territory, especially by not introducing any legislation which might fuel ethnic or religious discrimination (Brazil);

118.56 Incorporate explicitly the principle of equality and non-discrimination into its Basic Law (Honduras);

118.57 Consider incorporating explicitly the principles of equality, gender equality, and non-discrimination in its Basic Laws for all citizens (Thailand);

118.58 Step up efforts to fight inequality and discrimination between Jewish and Arab citizens (Portugal);

118.59 Abolish all measures, laws and other types of rules that validate racial discrimination and racism (Cuba);

118.60 Take immediate measures to end racist practices and policies that discriminate on the basis of colour, religion or belief (Egypt);

118.61 End all measures aimed at "Judaization" of the city of Jerusalem and changes to its political and demographic nature (Qatar);

118.62 Work for the better integration of new Jewish immigrants from other countries into Israeli society and to continue with their efforts to counter racial discrimination (India);

118.63 Intensify its efforts to address racism against Africans in Israel (South Africa);

118.64 Continue to strengthen measures to combat violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Chile);

118.65 Continue its efforts to safeguard lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex rights, following notable legislative and administrative developments (Greece);

118.66 Set up robust legislative measures aiming to prevent and punish excessive use of force, in line with international standards (Madagascar);

118.67 Ensure the State security forces make proportional use of force in all circumstances, including, among others, by ensuring that the rules of engagement or regulations on opening fire are fully consistent with international human rights law; and ensure that all alleged perpetrators of disproportionate use of force are brought to justice (Spain);

118.68 Keep on implementing the moratorium on capital punishment (Italy);

118.69 Consider abolishing the death penalty (Chile) (Mozambique);

118.70 Abolish capital punishment in all circumstances (Mexico);

118.71 Fully respect human rights in the fight against terrorism, and refrain from introducing a bill that would allow the application of a death penalty (Iceland);

118.72 Refrain from the practice of arbitrary detentions and prevent cases of the use of torture in places of deprivation of liberty (Russian Federation);

118.73 End practices of collective punishment such as the demolition of homes, revocation of residency permits in East Jerusalem, and the closure of entire areas (Germany);

118.74 **Fully translate the Convention against Torture into national legislation and implement the Committee's recommendations (Austria);**

118.75 **Ensure full respect for international human rights obligations, in particular those specified in article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, towards all prisoners, and that the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment definition of torture be incorporated into Israeli legislation (Ireland);**

118.76 **Ensure that the bill currently being drafted to criminalize torture is in full conformity with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);**

118.77 **Make progress in domesticating the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, including issues such as the exclusion of the necessity exception as a possible justification for torture; and ending situations of administrative detention (Spain);**

118.78 **Review relevant legislation and policy to ensure that all cases of administrative detention are in conformity with human rights law and standards (Czechia);**

118.79 **Ensure that administrative detention is in conformity with Israel's international commitments; that it remains an exceptional measure of limited duration; and that it is conducted in respect for fundamental safeguards (France);**

118.80 **Limit the application of administrative detention to clearly defined and exceptional cases, in accordance with international law; and refrain completely from holding minors in administrative detention (Germany);**

118.81 **Ensure that an excessive use of administrative detention is avoided (Italy);**

118.82 **Stop the practice of arbitrary administrative detention, release detainees and captives in Israeli prisons, especially children and women (Qatar);**

118.83 **Ensure that the use of administrative detention is limited to temporary and exceptional cases, and that international law, including human rights law, is fully respected, in particular regarding children held in administrative detention (Sweden);**

118.84 **Ensure that the detention of civilians, especially children, is carried out in accordance with international law and standards and without discrimination, including by ensuring the right to prompt and meaningful access to a lawyer prior to and during interrogations (Finland);**

118.85 **In accordance with the principle of accountability, Israeli authorities must ensure prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into allegations of intentional use of lethal or excessive force (Malaysia);**

118.86 **Guarantee the freedom and access to the religious sites (Jordan);**

118.87 **Ensure equal rights for all citizens, in full compliance with the principle of citizenship and respect for freedom of religion and belief for all (Egypt);**

118.88 **Ensure free access to religious sites and promote freedom of worship without prejudice to any religion (Mexico);**

118.89 **End violations and attacks on places of worship and holy sites (Iraq);**

118.90 **Strengthen efforts to guarantee freedom of religion or belief and adopt measures to prevent and combat attacks towards holy sites and symbols (Italy);**

118.91 **Guarantee the protection of the rights and the work of human rights defenders (Paraguay);**

118.92 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee the work of international human rights defenders (Argentina);**

118.93 **Ensure free functioning of human rights organizations and ensure their access to information (Russian Federation);**

118.94 **Ensure that civil society organizations are able to carry out their work in a secure and free environment, without undue restrictions and intimidations (Sweden);**

118.95 **Step up efforts to fully protect and promote an enabling and safe environment conducive to the work of all independent human rights organizations (Netherlands);**

118.96 **Take steps to provide the necessary and equal protection for all human rights defenders, as well as create the necessary circumstances for them to be able to carry out their activities freely, without discrimination and in a secure environment (Belgium);**

118.97 **Protect the ability of civil society organizations to operate freely in Israel, particularly human rights groups and international non-governmental organizations (Canada);**

118.98 **Take the necessary measures to ensure that human rights defenders and civil society actors can carry out their legitimate work in a safe environment without threats and harassment (Denmark);**

118.99 **Guarantee freedom of speech and association, and ensure that civil society organizations, which have been integral parts of Israel's vibrant and functioning democracy, continue to have the space in which to operate (Finland);**

118.100 **Continue ensuring that human rights defenders are able to accomplish their legitimate work in a secure and free environment (Greece);**

118.101 **Take steps to ensure constraints on freedom of movement do not restrict people's basic rights, including access to health care and education (Australia);**

118.102 **Sustain its efforts to protect and to promote the rights of minority women through dedicated policies, taking into account their unique cultural and economic conditions (Singapore);**

118.103 **Continue the efforts aimed at eliminating trafficking in persons domestically, as well as to continue to make its contribution to the global effort to combat this scourge at international level (Romania);**

118.104 **Step up efforts in terms of advancing women's rights inclusive to combat trafficking of and violence against women (Indonesia);**

118.105 **Continue to work to reduce discrimination against women (Portugal);**

118.106 **Continue their laudable efforts in promoting gender-based equality, including women's participation in public and private life and combating gender-based violence (Greece);**

118.107 **Continue to take steps in order to ensure full equality between women and men and to combat all forms of discrimination against women, in particular domestic violence (Romania);**

118.108 **Continue with the implementation of measures aimed at a broad national strategy focused on equality between men and women, that would allow continuing narrowing the gender gap for any reason (Paraguay);**

118.109 **Take further steps to encourage women's participation in the public sphere (Bulgaria);**

118.110 **Continue to promote the protection and mainstreaming of gender in all public and private activities (Angola);**

118.111 **Incorporate in legislation the principle of gender equality and non-discrimination in the public and private spheres (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

118.112 **Take necessary steps towards harmonizing its religious laws governing marriage and divorce with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and amend its legislation to allow for civil marriages without discrimination on the ground of religion or belief (Slovakia);**

118.113 **Continue its efforts to combat domestic and gender-based violence against women (Nepal);**

118.114 **Continue to tackle the problem of gender-based violence in a vigorous manner (Georgia);**

118.115 **Take note of the reports of pervasive and serious domestic and sexual violence against women, by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and redouble its efforts to address this issue (Japan);**

118.116 **Strengthen measures to combat gender-based violence, including through the implementation of relevant laws to ensure justice for victims (Rwanda);**

118.117 **In compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, apply the definition of the child to all persons under 18 years of age and ensure that this is the minimum age for military recruitment (Uruguay);**[1]

118.118 **Continue efforts aimed at strengthening policies to protect children's rights (Georgia);**

118.119 **Take more effective measure to promote children's rights, in close cooperation with the international community (Myanmar);**

118.120 **Ensure that all children, whether born to migrants, asylum seekers or refugees living within its territory, have access to birth registration (Sierra Leone);**

118.121 **Take the necessary measures to ensure that all children in its territory, including migrant, asylum seeker and refugee children, are issued a birth certificate (Togo);**

118.122 **Continue with action to include forced labour of children in the Criminal Code, explicitly criminalizing it (Paraguay);**

118.123 **Ensure that reforms in the juvenile justice system that provide safeguards for children are implemented (Sierra Leone);**

118.124 **That the detention of and judicial proceedings against children fully respect international juvenile justice standards, and in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Austria);**

[1] The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: "Adopt the necessary measures to oversee the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the occupied Arab territories and, in compliance with that convention, apply the definition of the child to all persons under 18 years of age and ensure that this is the minimum age for military recruitment."

118.125 **Desist from abusing human rights defenders and cease the arbitrary detention of children (South Africa);**

118.126 **Increase the budget of its public awareness campaigns aimed at promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and the accessibility requirements of public places, so as to better integrate them into society (Singapore);**

118.127 **Promote reconciliation between ethnic groups, and implement further measures to promote and protect the human rights and social participation of minorities, including citizens of Arab origin, in order to ensure and strengthen their access to housing, education, and social infrastructure (Japan);**

118.128 **Intensify efforts to advance the rights of its Arab minority populations (Norway);**

118.129 **Ensure that civil, economic, social and cultural rights of minorities are respected and protected, without discrimination, in particular with regard to the right to work, education, access to justice and legal protection as well as property (Belgium);**

118.130 **Enhance its efforts to counter discrimination of persons belonging to the Arab, Bedouin, Druze and Circassian communities, as well as persons belonging to other religious and ethnic minorities (Austria);**

118.131 **Ensure non-discrimination and respect for the rights of persons belonging, in particular, to the Israeli Arab and Bedouin minorities, including in access to land, employment, housing and places of worship (France);**

118.132 **Legally recognize unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Negev and improve the access of all Bedouin citizens to basic services, including adequate housing, water and sanitation, health care and education (Slovenia);**

118.133 **Support programmes designed to benefit Israel's minorities, with adequate resources, and make every effort towards their full implementation (Slovakia);**

118.134 **Continue with implementation of measures for the development of minorities (India);**

118.135 **Ensure access for asylum seekers in Israel to a fair and prompt refugee status determination process (Slovenia);**

118.136 **Instil a transparent, human rights-based approach related to the treatment of asylum seekers, including the cessation of forcible transfers to third countries (Turkey);**

118.137 **Ensure migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons have access to a fair and expeditious refugee status determination process (Algeria);**

118.138 **Guarantee that the principle of non-refoulement, established in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, is applied to all asylum seekers in Israel (Ecuador);**

118.139 **Respect the rights of refugees as enshrined in the Geneva Refugee Convention; and refrain from implementing the policy of forcible relocation to third countries without ensuring that relocation agreements include protection safeguards and that the overall legal framework is known by those who may volunteer for relocation (Germany);**

118.140 **Strengthen measures in implementing its obligations under international human rights bodies including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social**

and Cultural Rights to protect and promote human rights in the occupied territories (Republic of Korea);

118.141 **Ensure respect for international obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law throughout all the Occupied Palestinian Territories (Egypt);**

118.142 **Commit to the implementation of the human rights treaties and international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territories (Qatar);**

118.143 **Heed the calls for Israel to recognize and accept the applicability, to the OPT, of its international obligations, deriving from international treaties it is party to (Namibia);**

118.144 **Comply with the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions, paving the way to end the occupation of the Palestinian territories and other Arab occupied territories (United Arab Emirates);**

118.145 **Abide by its international obligations, including under the Fourth Geneva Convention, on the treatment of a civilian population under military occupation, as previously recommended (Ireland);**

118.146 **As regards the occupied Palestinian territories, take measures in order to abide by international law, especially the fourth Geneva Convention and relevant United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions (Brazil);**

118.147 **Take all necessary measures to ensure that it fulfils all its obligations under international human rights instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with regard to the situation in Gaza (Iceland);**

118.148 **End all unilateral measures that compromise the peace which is in the regional and international interest, and that pose a threat to international peace and security, especially abolish the decision by the Knesset on the unified Jerusalem; abolish the decision by the governing party on settlements annexation and on the imposition of sovereignty over the West Bank (Jordan);**

118.149 **Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (Mexico);**

118.150 **Cooperate with the commissions of inquiry, treaty bodies, special procedures and other United Nations bodies in the investigation of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

118.151 **Fully implement all international organizations' and conferences' resolutions regarding all rights of the Palestinian people (Iraq);**

118.152 **Eliminate laws and practices that discriminate against Palestinians in Israel and in the occupied territories; particularly eliminating road segregation for the exclusive use of the Israeli population, settlements, restrictions on freedom of movement, checkpoints and separation walls (Ecuador);**

118.153 **Halt the activity of companies conducting business in illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank (Bahrain);**

118.154 **Effectively prevent and sanction incidents of the use of excessive force and unlawful killings by security personnel against Palestinians, especially by aligning relevant legislation with international human rights law (Turkey);**

118.155 **Prevent the excessive use of force by the Israeli military and security forces, particularly against minors (Costa Rica);**

118.156 Ensure the existence and operation of an effective accountability system to address possible violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, among other means, facilitating the effective access to justice for victims and guaranteeing the effective investigation of complaints, as well as the lawful work of human rights defenders (Spain);

118.157 Put an end to the extrajudicial executions of Palestinians and the criminal military attacks that have caused the death of thousands of innocents and punish those responsible, unpunished until now (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

118.158 Put an end to the gross violations of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in all its forms, as well as extrajudicial executions of Palestinians, which have been on the increase since 2015, under the pretext of security (Algeria);

118.159 Stop the policies of killing, administrative detention and enforced disappearances against the Palestinians under the pretext of "security reasons" (United Arab Emirates);

118.160 Eliminate practices of torture and ill-treatment against Palestinian detainees, particularly children, including during arrests, transfers and interrogation (Turkey);

118.161 Discontinue the collective punishment of Palestinians (Namibia);

118.162 End the illegal detention of Palestinians without charges or legal proceedings; the tortures to which they are subjected, the inhumane conditions of solitary confinement, overcrowding, lack of hygiene and basic services; and the denial of medical attention in its prisons (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

118.163 Consider improving prison conditions, including those where Palestinians inmates are held (Mozambique);

118.164 Minimize the use of administrative detention against Palestinians, especially minors, and in compliance with international human rights standards (Norway);

118.165 Take all necessary steps to align the use of administrative detention with international human rights standards and obligations; in particular, take the necessary measures to ensure that Palestinian children are not exposed to arbitrary arrest and detention and enjoy full procedural rights in conformity with international human rights standards (Belgium);

118.166 Continue its efforts to reform its security and judicial practices with regard to Palestinians (Australia);

118.167 Combat impunity through in-depth, impartial investigations of all allegations of human rights violations, including those involving members of security forces or settlers (France);

118.168 Guarantee the protection of the religious and cultural heritage of the occupied Palestinian territories; in particular, respect the historical and legal status quo that exists in the holy Al Aqsa Mosque/Al Haram Ash-Sharif (Jordan);

118.169 Effectively intervene to stop all violations of Islamic and Christian holy sites, which are under the de facto control of the Israeli Government (Egypt);

118.170 Maintain an enabling environment for the work of NGOs and journalists, and lift the prohibition on Israeli journalists visiting the Palestinian territories (France);

118.171 **Ensure that Israeli and Palestinian civil society actors, including human rights defenders, can exercise their freedom of speech and carry out their work unhindered (Norway);**

118.172 **Take steps to ensure the right to freedom of movement for Palestinians (Iceland);**

118.173 **Repeal without delay all restrictions on the freedom of movement and access within the Occupied Palestinian Territories, in order to ensure full enjoyment of fundamental rights by residents, as well as an adequate standard of living (Turkey);**

118.174 **Remove restrictions on the freedom of movement of residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and facilitate access to necessary medical services and resources (Maldives);**

118.175 **Respect the rights of Palestinians to freedom of movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including access to religious sites such as the Al Aqsa Mosque; and through the lifting of the blockade on the Gaza Strip (Malaysia);**

118.176 **Reduce restrictions on freedom of movement to allow for better access to health services for Palestinians, particularly those residing in Gaza (Canada);**

118.177 **Reverse policies and practices that negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights by Palestinians both in Israel and in the OPT, including the blockade on Gaza, demolition of houses, destruction of property and natural resources, illegal settlements on Palestinian lands and many others (Namibia);**

118.178 **Taking immediate action to cease the policy of demolitions of Palestinian properties and buildings, and provide a clearly defined and transparent process for the construction of properties and buildings for Palestinians in Area C of the West Bank and in East Jerusalem, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

118.179 **Review the housing policy and refrain from carrying out evictions and demolitions, taking into account the human rights of Palestinians (Ecuador);**

118.180 **Allow the people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory unimpeded access to water, food and medical care (South Africa);**

118.181 **Halt the confiscation and expropriation of Palestinian lands and grant access to the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory to natural resources, including agricultural land and water (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

118.182 **Stop exploiting and plundering Palestinian natural resources in violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions (United Arab Emirates);**

118.183 **Respect the right of Palestinians to have access to their natural resources and to exploit them freely; and guarantee access to all basic services, especially drinking water (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.184 **Ensure the end of Palestinian groundwater confiscation and other water resource allocation within illegal settlements (Bahrain);**

118.185 **Lift the excessive blockade on the Gaza Strip, and guarantee access to people and products without in or out impediments (Qatar);**

118.186 **End the closure of the Gaza Strip, guarantee freedom of movement to the entire population, as well as respect and protect their human rights, in particular by guaranteeing access to goods and services essential to their realization (Switzerland);**

118.187 **Permanently lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip, to allow for the import and export of fuel, food, building materials and other essential goods (Bahrain);**

118.188 **Consult on possibilities to broaden access to a safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank (Austria);**

118.189 **Assist in the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip and allow the access of humanitarian aid (Mexico);**

118.190 **Allow unfettered access for international assistance to improve the humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people in Gaza (Indonesia);**

118.191 **Take necessary measures to prevent forced eviction of the Palestinian people (Indonesia);**

118.192 **Consider the adoption of a strategy to guarantee the protection of women's rights in Gaza (Chile);**

118.193 **Implement measures to guarantee and protect the rights of Palestinian children in areas relating to education, criminal procedure, poverty and security (Chile);**

118.194 **Adopt the necessary measures to oversee the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the occupied Arab territories (Uruguay);**[2]

118.195 **Ensure that the treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli detention is fully in line with Israel's commitments under international law (Netherlands);**

118.196 **Taking action to protect child detainees, ensuring the mandatory use of audiovisual recording in interrogations with all child detainees, ending the use of painful restraints, and consistently and fully informing detainees of their legal rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

118.197 **Strengthen protections for Palestinian children by halting military proceedings against them and applying fully the Fourth Geneva Convention to this vulnerable group (Maldives);**

118.198 **Ensure that all Palestinian children detained are held in the occupied Palestinian territory, and not in Israel (Denmark);**

118.199 **Ensure the implementation of international standards as well as recommendations by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) related to Palestinian minors in Israeli detention and prisons (Slovenia);**

118.200 **Undertake judicial reforms to ensure equal protection and treatment before the law, and that children are not exposed to arbitrary arrest and detention (Botswana);**

118.201 **Prohibit the arrest or arbitrary detention of children and the use of human shields in Israeli Army operations, in addition to extrajudicial executions using drones (Ecuador);**

118.202 **Take urgent measures to promote and protect rights of Palestinian people (Russian Federation);**

118.203 **End the practice of occupation and withdraw from all areas occupied since 1967 and allow for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital (Jordan);**

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[2] The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: "Adopt the necessary measures to oversee the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the occupied Arab territories and, in compliance with that convention, apply the definition of the child to all persons under 18 years of age and ensure that this is the minimum age for military recruitment."

118.204 **Put an end to the illegal occupation of its territory and that of the Syrian Golan; to the inhuman blockade of Gaza and allow the return of the refugees (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.205 **Recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination as part of a two-State solution, including East Jerusalem as capital of a Palestinian State (South Africa);**

118.206 **Recognize the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and establish the independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital (Qatar);**

118.207 **Recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and withdraw to the pre-1967 borders (United Arab Emirates);**

118.208 **Recognize and respect the inalienable right to self-determination of Palestine as a sovereign and independent State, with East Jerusalem as its capital (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.209 **The full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the return of the Palestinian population, which was displaced by military means, to their homes and guarantee the practice of their legitimate rights (Iraq);**

118.210 **Implement United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) by immediately halting all settlement construction in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (South Africa);**

118.211 **Immediately cease all efforts of settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories (Jordan);**

118.212 **Suspend the construction of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and implement relevant international resolutions, and dismantle the separation wall (Qatar);**

118.213 **Freeze settlement activities and refrain from all measures aimed at extending its authority beyond the 1967 borders, in accordance with international humanitarian law (Switzerland);**

118.214 **Abide, as the occupying power, by all obligations under international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including the immediate cessation of illegal settlement activity (Turkey);**

118.215 **Immediately freeze its settlement activities, which undermine the viability of a two-State solution and violate international law (Japan);**

118.216 **End illegal settlements construction of Jewish population and transfer of Jewish population into the occupied Palestinian territory (Russian Federation);**

118.217 **End the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories (Qatar);**

118.218 **End the illegal occupation of all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, and end the destruction and demolition of Palestinian private and public property (Malaysia);**

118.219 **Stop the settlement expansion policy as it constitutes a violation to all rights of Palestinian people (United Arab Emirates);**

118.220 **Discontinue the occupation and expansion of illegal settlements established in the West Bank and East Jerusalem which violate the basic rights of the Palestinian people (Maldives);**

118.221 **End the Israeli illegal settlements in the Occupied Territories. End the heinous practices of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, including the use of blockades, closures and restrictions (Malaysia);**

118.222 Urgently cease discriminatory and unlawful planning process in the West Bank and Jerusalem, with a view to repealing legislation confiscating Palestinian lands (Turkey);

118.223 Immediately cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, and dismantle all settlements affecting the status of the occupied territories under international legitimacy (Egypt);

118.224 Stop the colonization of the Palestinian territory with illegal settlements, and the destruction of their homes and cultural and religious places (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

118.225 Taking immediate action to reverse policy on settlement expansion in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which is illegal under international humanitarian law (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

118.226 Cease the transfer of its civilian population to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and end all support for settlements and settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Israel must dismantle settlements and withdraw Israeli settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as recommended by the Human Rights Committee in 2014 (Algeria);

118.227 End the unlawful transfer of the Palestinian population residing in East Jerusalem in accordance with obligations under article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Protocol (Malaysia);

118.228 End the unlawful transfer of the Palestinian population and fulfil obligations under article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (Bahrain);

118.229 Ensure that no forcible transfer of population is conducted in Area C and take proactive measures to increase access to clean water, electricity, education and health services for Palestinians in Area C (Sweden);

118.230 Dismantle the opprobrious separation wall that violates the human rights of the Palestinian people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

118.231 Repeal the legislation passed in February 2017 by the Knesset that legalized the confiscation of private Palestinian lands (Bahrain);

118.232 Repeal legislation allowing the confiscation and expropriation of private property belonging to Palestinians, end the expansion of settlements, ceasing all types of practices that discriminate between Israeli settlers and Palestinians (Costa Rica).

119. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Israel and have been noted by Israel:

119.1 Stop targeting human rights defenders, including by repealing the so-called "NGO Transparency" Law, the so-called "Anti-Boycott" Law, as well as the March 2017 amendment to the so-called "Entry to Israel" Law (State of Palestine);

119.2 Ensure that national asylum procedures are in line with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Optional Protocol, as well as other international laws and standards relating to persons in need of international protection (State of Palestine);

119.3 Recognize the right to return of the Palestinian refugees to live in peace with their neighbours and their right to compensation for their destroyed homes, properties and losses (State of Palestine);

119.4 End the policy of administrative detention and the use of torture against Palestinians including children in Israeli military detention, and free all Palestinian political prisoners including children (State of Palestine);

119.5 **End the illegal blockade of Gaza, investigate all allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during its military aggressions in Gaza and provide full reparation to the victims and their families (State of Palestine);**

119.6 **Comply with international laws by immediately ending its 50 years of colonial occupation of the OPT and apartheid policies against the Palestinian people (State of Palestine);**

119.7 **Halt immediately the colonization and attempted annexation of Palestinian land, the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and their associated regime, the forcible transfer of Palestinians and the demolition of Palestinian homes and structures (State of Palestine);**

119.8 **Dismantle the illegal wall and the related infrastructures located inside the OPT and compensate Palestinians for all of the losses incurred due to their presence (State of Palestine).**

120. **The recommendations listed in paragraphs 119.1–119.8 were noted as they have been submitted by the "State of Palestine". Israel considers that the use of the term "State of Palestine" in United Nations documents to be procedural in nature only and was adopted pursuant to a technical Palestinian request that its delegation be referred to by this name, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/19. It does not and cannot indicate any recognition of statehood, and is without prejudice to the substantive question of the legal status of the Palestinian entity. Israel further considers that the Palestinian entity does not satisfy the criteria for statehood under international law, and, like many other States, does not recognize it as such.**

121. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Israel was headed by H.E. Ms. Aviva RAZ SHECHTER, Ambassador Permanent Representative and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Emi Palmor, Director General of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Justice Jerusalem, Alternate Head of Delegation;
- Ms. Eva Madjiboj, General Director, The Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women, Jerusalem;
- Advocate Mariam Kabaha, National Commissioner at Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Social Services, Jerusalem;
- Mr. Avremi Torem, Commissioner for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Justice Jerusalem;
- Adv. Aweke Kobi Zena, National Anti-Racism Coordinator, Ministry of Justice, Jerusalem;
- Adv. Dina Dominitz, National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Coordinator, Ministry of Justice, Jerusalem;
- Advocate Hila Tene-Gilad, Director of Human Rights and Relations with International Organizations, Office of the Deputy Attorney General (International Law) Ministry of Justice, Jerusalem;
- Adv. Sarah Weiss Ma'udi, Director of the International Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem;
- Adv. Ronen Gil-or, Director of Human Rights and International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem;
- Mr. Yoel Mester, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Israel, Geneva;
- Advocate Orit Kremer, Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Israel, Geneva;
- Advocate Brian Frenkel, Adviser Human Rights, Permanent Mission of Israel, Geneva.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Liechtenstein

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Liechtenstein was held at the 15th meeting on 24 January 2018. The delegation of Liechtenstein was headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture, Aurelia Frick. At its 18th meeting, held on 26 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Liechtenstein.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Liechtenstein: Australia, Ecuador and Ethiopia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Liechtenstein:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/LIE/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/LIE /2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/LIE /3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Brazil, Germany, Portugal and Spain was transmitted to Liechtenstein through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of delegation said that the universal periodic review was among the most obvious successes of the Human Rights Council, which, in itself, was a success story and a powerful tool that had stimulated internal debate and triggered change in a large number of countries, including Liechtenstein. The recommendations accepted from previous reviews had either been integrated into ongoing reform processes and existing measures or separate processes had been launched for that purpose.

6. The universality of the universal periodic review was of paramount importance, but without the unhindered and active engagement of civil society, the process lost its credibility.

7. In 2003, Liechtenstein had issued a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, reflecting its clear commitment to cooperating with all special procedures.

8. At the international level, the commitment of Liechtenstein to multilateralism and its membership of key international organizations primarily served to promote and support peace and stability, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Women's and children's rights were long-standing priorities with regard to foreign policy. The same was true of its support for the International Criminal Court and, more generally, of efforts to strengthen criminal justice and accountability. The work carried out by Liechtenstein in that regard demonstrated that even a small State was able to make a valuable contribution to the progressive development of international law. The establishment of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in

the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 served as an excellent illustration in that regard.

9. At the national level, as a result of a recommendation accepted in 2008, Liechtenstein had been conducting human rights dialogues with civil society on an annual basis since 2009. During the 2017 dialogue, more than 30 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), independent institutions and bodies, the private sector and the newly established national human rights institution, the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association, had taken part in discussions focusing on the draft universal periodic review report.

10. The Human Rights Association had recently been set up in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). After broad consultations with civil society and other stakeholders, in November 2016, Parliament had adopted, by consensus, a law establishing a national human rights institution. In order to ensure that the new institution could operate independently, it had been given the legal status of a common-benefit association. It served as an Ombudsman's Office and had a broad mandate to protect and promote human rights. The Ombudsman's Office for Children and Young People, which had been established in 2009, had been integrated into the national human rights institution. Civil society had adopted the statutes of the Association in December 2016 and had elected its board for the period 2017–2020. The secretariat had been operational since June 2017. The new institution would generate added value and would further strengthen human rights and fundamental freedoms.

11. The head of delegation said that the population of Liechtenstein was highly diverse, with citizens from more than 100 nations. As at the end of 2016, foreigners with permanent residence had made up 33.8 per cent of the population. The society of Liechtenstein was proof that diversity and social harmony were not contradictory. Integration was understood as a reciprocal process that was based on the principle of demanding and promoting respect and understanding from both immigrants and the locally born population. Economic success, which had led to a very low rate of unemployment, was another key factor in successful integration. The education system also played an important role in the integration of the foreign population and the promotion of tolerance and understanding. The dual education system had been making an important contribution to the integration of young people into the labour market for decades. Young persons had the option of either starting vocational training or entering higher education. The very low youth unemployment rate was proof of the success of that system. The dual education system was also regarded as a significant factor in the success of the economy, as it trained the highly qualified specialists the economy needed. The entire education system was being continuously developed and improved. Liechtenstein was a proponent of a liberal economic system, with equal opportunities for all to be successful. Access to the labour market was key in that respect. Asylum seekers enjoyed broad access to the labour market from day one onwards. Early integration through language training had been made a priority.

12. The revised Asylum Act had entered into force on 1 January 2017. The aim of the revision had been to accelerate procedures and shorten waiting periods for decisions on asylum applications. The Asylum Act was based on the principles of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, including the principle of non-refoulement. It was also a demonstration of the humanitarian tradition of Liechtenstein. In that regard, at the international level, Liechtenstein was actively engaged in the discussions and negotiations regarding a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. It supported an ambitious global compact that was firmly based on international law, in particular human rights law. It was believed that the global compact should set out a positive vision of safe, orderly and regular migration and its benefits with regard to social and economic development.

13. At the national level, there had been improvements with regard to children's rights, namely the revision of the Civil Code and, in particular, its provisions on custody following divorce. The revised law had entered into force on 1 January 2015. As a result of the revision, joint custody was the norm after separation or divorce. That new rule corresponded to international legal developments and changes in society.

14. Significant progress had been made in the past two decades in advancing gender equality. De jure, women were granted full equality with men. However, despite girls performing better than boys in school, women were still underrepresented in many areas. That meant that there was still a long way to go in order to achieve de facto equality, especially with regard to the representation of women in decision-making and leadership positions in politics and the economy. Liechtenstein also needed to work on ensuring the compatibility of family and career. Over the past five years, various measures had continuously been implemented in that domain. A balanced representation of both genders in political bodies had not yet been achieved. Liechtenstein had achieved a good balance in the representation of women in the Government, with two women ministers out of five in total since 2009. Unfortunately, however, the trend in Parliament was negative: there were currently only 3 women parliamentarians out of a total of 25. That meant that women's representation had fallen from 24 per cent. in the previous legislative period, to 12 per cent. On the positive side, that result had led to very lively, ongoing discussions about the reasons for that decline and possible countermeasures. Liechtenstein recognized the need to double its efforts to increase the share of women in leadership positions in politics and in the economy and to achieve a balanced representation as soon as possible.

15. In order to achieve the above-mentioned goals, the Government had decided to prioritize in its programme to improving the compatibility of family and career. Planned measures in that regard included promoting the further expansion of afterschool programmes, day-care centres and public schools. Liechtenstein continuously optimized such facilities with the help of the municipal authorities and the private sector.

16. In addition, the standardization of school timetables throughout the country was currently being considered. In 2015, after considering a report on the situation of childcare outside the home, the Government had decided to provide a new basis for the financing of additional childcare places. A working group was currently developing solutions in that regard. Furthermore, a comprehensive online survey to assess the needs of young families regarding reconciliation of family and work life had recently been completed.

17. Various measures had been taken in the past few years to support and empower persons with disabilities. In November 2017, the tenth anniversary of the Law on the Equality of Persons with Disabilities, a milestone for the empowerment of persons with disabilities, had been marked with the holding of an exhibition and workshops attended by schoolchildren and many other interested parties. Liechtenstein was, however, well aware, that it had yet to honour its commitment to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Liechtenstein fully supported the substance and purpose of the Convention and discussions had resumed at the national level regarding its signature and ratification.

18. Changing demographics, particularly the increasing percentage of older persons in the total population, and their changing demands and needs, would require continuous attention in the future. The social security and old-age provision system had been designed to cope with those developments.

19. Policy on older persons was based on the principle that older persons and persons in need of care should be able to live as autonomously and independently as possible. Thanks to the excellent health-care system, life expectancy at birth had risen steadily over the past few decades. The provisions on older persons allowed the inhabitants of the country to continue to enjoy a high standard of living after retirement. In order to secure the long-term financial security of the insurance scheme for older persons, Parliament had decided on major reforms in 2016.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 60 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the signature, by Liechtenstein, of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and

Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), the establishment of the national human rights institution and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The Republic of Moldova also commended Liechtenstein for its focus on gender equality and the steps taken to create equal opportunities to ensure a work-life balance and welcomed the new law on parents and children prioritizing the welfare of the child.

22. Senegal welcomed the initiatives of Liechtenstein to strengthen and promote human rights, including the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, the measures taken to combat racism and xenophobia and the efforts made to achieve gender equality, integrate foreign nationals into society, ensure equal opportunities and reduce discrimination.

23. Sierra Leone noted the ratification by Liechtenstein of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure in 2017 and its signature of the Istanbul Convention. Sierra Leone commended Liechtenstein for establishing a national human rights institution and for issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

24. Singapore commended Liechtenstein for establishing a national human rights institution and for supporting gender equality by promoting female representation in leadership positions, expanding day-care services, addressing wage disparity and combating gender-based violence. Singapore also commended the steps taken by Liechtenstein regarding care for older persons, such as the revision of the Law on Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance and the provision of supplementary benefits.

25. Slovenia commended the ratification by Liechtenstein of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on a communications procedure. Slovenia also welcomed the measures taken by Liechtenstein to close the gender pay gap, but noted that many challenges persisted, as women continued to be underrepresented in decision-making and leadership positions in politics and the economy.

26. Spain welcomed the recent ratification by Liechtenstein of two of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the establishment of the prison commission and the review of the Criminal Code in order to incorporate a definition of torture that was in line with international law. Spain was, however, concerned at the lack of a comprehensive prohibition of multiple discrimination in domestic law.

27. The State of Palestine commended the creation by Liechtenstein of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and its ratification, in 2017, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. The State of Palestine acknowledged efforts to improve the quality of education, while noting that work remained to be done in that regard, particularly concerning the provision of inclusive education for children with disabilities.

28. Switzerland commended the long-standing efforts of Liechtenstein in support of the rule of law and its significant commitment to tackling impunity. In that regard, Liechtenstein had played a key role in the creation of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic. Switzerland also took note of the positive measures taken for the promotion of gender equality.

29. The Syrian Arab Republic noted the frameworks and institutional legislative measures for human rights of Liechtenstein and their impact and compatibility at the national, regional and international levels.

30. Ukraine commended the creation by Liechtenstein of the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association. Ukraine also commended the signature and ratification by Liechtenstein of a number of international and European agreements relevant to human rights, and the adoption of legislative amendments to domestic laws, the Criminal Code and the Asylum Act with the aim of developing the existing legal framework.

31. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognized the creation of the Human Rights Association since the country's previous universal periodic review in

2013 and welcomed its commitment to efforts to disrupt financial chains associated with human trafficking and modern slavery. The United Kingdom encouraged Liechtenstein to enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that protected all elements of society, including specific legislation prohibiting racial discrimination.

32. The United States of America commended the commitment of Liechtenstein to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democratic values and the rule of law. The United States noted, however, that work remained to be done regarding juvenile detainees, the legal representation of asylum seekers, access to public services for non-citizens, the employment of, and pay discrimination against, women, discrimination against minority groups and infrastructure for persons with disabilities.

33. Uruguay highlighted the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the progress achieved in the area of women's rights.

34. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the creation of the national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and the recent ratification of two of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. While the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the efforts of Liechtenstein to achieve gender equality in law, it remained concerned at persisting challenges related to the right to work and political participation.

35. Afghanistan noted with appreciation the establishment by Liechtenstein of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and urged it to strengthen the above-mentioned institution. Afghanistan also commended the policies and actions of Liechtenstein relating to the improvement of human rights.

36. Albania commended the progress made by Liechtenstein in the field of human rights protection with the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles. Albania applauded the ratification by Liechtenstein of a number of Council of Europe instruments and its signature of the Istanbul Convention. However, Albania wished to know more about measures taken by Liechtenstein regarding gender equality, the promotion of ethnic and religious tolerance in education and the fight against gender-based violence.

37. Algeria welcomed the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and the ratification of several international legal instruments, including two of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Istanbul Convention. It further welcomed the commitment of Liechtenstein to promoting gender equality, combating violence against women and domestic violence and improving women's representation in political life.

38. Andorra acknowledged the efforts of Liechtenstein to ratify the main international human rights instruments and welcomed the signature, in 2016, of the Istanbul Convention, and the adoption of the Law on the Equality of Persons with Disabilities.

39. Argentina congratulated Liechtenstein on the adoption of the law on the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association in November 2016, and noted its actions to ensure gender equality.

40. Armenia noted the dialogue conducted with NGOs and their active engagement in the advancement of the human rights framework, the steps taken to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, the measures implemented to further enhance gender equality, the preventive policies introduced to combat human trafficking and the ratification of several international and regional human rights instruments.

41. Australia commended the strong domestic human rights record of Liechtenstein and its role as an advocate for human rights at the international level. Australia acknowledged the steps taken to strengthen human rights protections since the previous review, including through the establishment of a national human rights institution.

42. Azerbaijan noted the institutional reforms undertaken to ensure that human rights were protected at the national level, in particular through the establishment of the national

human rights institution and the consolidation of different Ombudsman institutions under its umbrella. Azerbaijan acknowledged the progress made in addressing the challenges related to discrimination, notably by amending the Criminal Code to include criminal responsibility for public incitement of hatred and discrimination on various grounds.

43. Benin congratulated Liechtenstein on its level of democracy and the steps taken to implement previous universal periodic review recommendations. It stressed the importance of establishing and operationalizing a national human rights institution and ratifying international instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights. Legislative measures were needed to strengthen compliance with the gender equality approach.

44. Bosnia and Herzegovina commended Liechtenstein for its long-standing commitment to fundamental freedoms and human rights and for the steps taken to strengthen their foundations. It welcomed the country's signature and ratification of a number of international and European instruments on the protection of human rights, and hailed the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

45. Brazil invited Liechtenstein to consider becoming a party to the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. In addition, it commended Liechtenstein for its comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and related initiatives, especially with regard to the promotion of vulnerable groups, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

46. Bulgaria welcomed the ratification by Liechtenstein of a number of international and European human rights instruments, and hailed the establishment of the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association and the Office of Social Services. It commended efforts to enhance gender equality and empower women, as reflected by the narrowing of the gender pay gap over the past decade. It praised Liechtenstein for the progress made in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and in promoting their integration into professional and social life. It welcomed the priority given to combating human trafficking.

47. Canada welcomed the establishment by Liechtenstein of a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

48. Chile welcomed the creation of the national human rights institution and urged Liechtenstein to provide it with sufficient resources. It commended the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments since 2013. Chile welcomed the legal amendments to, and the inclusion of a broad definition of discrimination in, domestic law. Chile was concerned at the decreasing representation of women in politics and urged Liechtenstein to promote gender equality in all spheres of society.

49. China commended the efforts of Liechtenstein to promote and protect human rights. Liechtenstein strove to eradicate inequality and discrimination and to strengthen the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Nonetheless, gender inequalities persisted, for example, women were underrepresented in political and public life, the gender pay gap persisted and was worsening and prison conditions in the country required further improvements.

50. The delegation stated that the Office for Foreign Affairs was the main body in charge of coordinating the preparation of the national report, in close cooperation with the relevant ministries and offices responsible for the various issues covered by the report. The Office also ensured the coordination of the implementation of review recommendations and the monitoring of progress in that regard. The drafting of the report and the follow-up process involved dialogue with civil society organizations. In 2017, as a part of the follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations received relating to the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Liechtenstein had established a working group to oversee that process. That approach might possibly serve as a model for future processes, including the universal periodic review follow-up. Generally, the workload for reporting had intensified in the past few years, making for quite a challenge, particularly for a small administration such as that of Liechtenstein. Liechtenstein therefore supported processes at the international level to strengthen the reporting mechanisms and to make them efficient and effective. Whenever

possible, Liechtenstein used the simplified reporting procedure offered by most of the United Nations treaty bodies.

51. In response to a number of interventions and advance questions, the head of delegation stated that legislative and practical measures that were necessary for the implementation of international treaties were assessed and put into place prior to the signature and ratification of such instruments. That practice also explained why it often took some time for Liechtenstein to sign and ratify new instruments. In the past four years, Liechtenstein had ratified a number of international treaties in the field of human rights. Discussions on the signature and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had resumed. The level of integration of children with disabilities into the schooling system was extremely high.

52. The Istanbul Convention was a milestone with regard to the fight against gender-based violence and to efforts to achieve equality between women and men. Liechtenstein had signed the Convention in 2016. Domestic law was, to a large extent, in line with the provisions of the Convention. With a number of minor amendments to the Criminal Code planned for 2018, the necessary preconditions for the ratification of the Convention, scheduled for 2018, would be fulfilled in the near future.

53. The head of delegation said that equal opportunities for men and women had long been a priority for the Government. As a part of the coalition agreement and the government programme for the current term, gender equality, and particularly the reconciliation of work and family life, ranked high on the agenda of the Government. The head of the delegation of Liechtenstein stressed her personal commitment to raising those issues at the national and international levels. Liechtenstein was a member of the Commission on the Status of Women for the period 2016–2019. The head of delegation would participate in a 2018 high-level meeting, thus supporting both the Commission and the United Nations in their important work to bring about equal rights and opportunities and justice for women and girls globally.

54. In 2011, under the guidance of the head of delegation in her ministerial role, Liechtenstein had introduced the Law on Registered Partnerships of Same-Sex Couples and was working to further strengthen equality in that area. In 2017, Liechtenstein had introduced a reform of the law governing the names of registered partners.

55. The head of delegation said that Liechtenstein had not experienced any major conflicts between the locally born population and foreign nationals for decades. The foreign population participated in the economic success of the country and was integrated into its social structures. Many individuals with foreign nationality had taken up high- or mid-level positions in the private sector or within the national administration.

56. Refugee children and foreign children were integrated very early on into the mainstream education system, with specialized teachers helping them to improve their German language skills, and they received assistance in integrating into society.

57. With regard to questions and recommendations on non-discrimination and the respect of the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, the head of delegation stated that the principle of equal treatment was effectively implemented through the Constitution of Liechtenstein, the international human rights conventions ratified by the country and settled case law. Generally, all inhabitants with a valid residence permit had equal access to State services. In April 2016, an amendment to paragraph 283 of the Criminal Code had entered into force, introducing the comprehensive prohibition of discrimination. Apart from the above-mentioned amendment to the Criminal Code, several special laws contained concrete provisions protecting against discrimination.

58. Regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in 2016, the Government had established an interdisciplinary working group, which had performed a gap analysis of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Government planned to take a decision about a workplan relating to the Goals in the near future.

59. Liechtenstein was committed to combating human trafficking and modern slavery. It planned to focus on identifying and disrupting the illicit financial flows associated with human trafficking and modern slavery.

60. In 2015, official development assistance as a share of gross national income had stood at 0.46 per cent and the intention was to improve on that figure in the near future.

61. As to the incorporation into domestic law of a distinct crime of torture, in strict conformity with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, a government working group had recently prepared a revised version of the Criminal Code. By incorporating the planned new elements into the Criminal Code, Liechtenstein would be implementing the recommendations of the Committee against Torture and those made during the universal periodic review.

62. Liechtenstein had signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2007 and there were no substantial problems regarding its ratification. The Government was currently working to introduce a definition of enforced disappearance into the Criminal Code: once that process had been completed, the Government would both re-evaluate and discuss its position on ratification of the Convention. Liechtenstein was not, and did not intend in the near future to become, a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), therefore, it could not ratify ILO instruments. Liechtenstein attached great importance to social and economic rights. As a full member of the European Economic Area, Liechtenstein had been transposing all relevant European Union legislation, including labour standards, into domestic law. Many of those labour standards went far beyond what the ILO instruments stipulated. The Government did not have any plans to sign or ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

63. Turning to the advance questions, remarks and recommendations regarding measures taken to ensure equitable working conditions, including wage indicators, for immigrants and nationals, Liechtenstein applied the same high labour and social security standards as all European Union member States. Those standards were applied equally to all employees in Liechtenstein. Unemployment was very low by international standards. The annual average in 2016 had been 2.3 per cent. Among foreign nationals, the average unemployment rate in 2016 had been 3.4 per cent, slightly higher than that for Liechtenstein citizens, which had been 1.6 per cent. There were more than 15 generally binding collective bargaining agreements governing minimum wages, working hours and other employment conditions, to counteract social or wage dumping.

64. De facto equality between men and women remained a challenge. Many measures in that regard had been implemented based on the Gender Equality Act.

65. The gender wage gap had fallen continuously over the past eight years, from 20 per cent in 2006 to 16.5 per cent in 2014.

66. In order to ensure the integration of migrant children, a number of language learning support initiatives had been launched, such as intensive German-as-a-second-language courses for newly arrived children and adolescents, obligatory school enrolment and early education, involving the participation of parents.

67. Liechtenstein promoted the integration of immigrants and offered protection to refugees, in line with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. There were no plans to revise the legal framework regarding family reunification issues, as the existing legislation was compatible with international obligations and the right to family life was guaranteed. There was a fast track in place for refugee family reunification.

68. All asylum seekers had access to free legal counselling throughout the asylum process and, should they so desire, to legal aid and representation when appealing against government decisions.

69. In 2016, an amendment to article 283 the Criminal Code had entered into force, introducing a comprehensive prohibition on discrimination, including all types of hate speech. While previously only racial discrimination had constituted a criminal offence, public incitement to hatred or discrimination on the grounds of language, nationality,

ethnicity, religion, ideology, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation had been made a criminal offence, punishable by up to two years' imprisonment.

70. There had been no cases of violence or of crimes committed by extremists in more than five years. Extremist groups, such as European Action, had lain dormant since 2014 and no longer spread hate speech in the country to any significant degree.

71. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Liechtenstein for the progress made since the previous review, including the establishment of a national human rights institution and the ratification of several international and European human rights instruments, such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. It also appreciated the efforts made in the areas of equality, non-discrimination and the fight against racism.

72. Ecuador welcomed the 2016 amendment of article 283 of the Criminal Code, incorporating a broad definition of discrimination that included language, nationality, ethnic origin, ideology, disability, age and sexual orientation. Ecuador also welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

73. Estonia hailed the recent ratification of two of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. While welcoming the ratification by Liechtenstein of most international human rights instruments, it encouraged the Government to pursue efforts to reduce the treaty body reporting backlog. It welcomed steps to achieve gender equality in law and in practice.

74. France stated that Liechtenstein had implemented a number of important recommendations made in 2013, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

75. Georgia welcomed the creation of an independent national human rights institution. It noted with appreciation that Liechtenstein was a signatory to most international conventions and welcomed the ratification of several international human rights instruments since the previous universal periodic review, including the recent ratification of two of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It commended effective policies to decrease consumption of addictive substances, urging Liechtenstein to purse those efforts.

76. Germany welcomed the ratification of two of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It commended Liechtenstein for establishing and sufficiently funding an independent national human rights institution and urged that body to seek accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. It encouraged Liechtenstein to further promote gender equality.

77. Ghana welcomed the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and hailed the ratification of various international and European human rights instruments. It further lauded the ongoing efforts of Liechtenstein to achieve balanced gender representation in the political process and in the labour market.

78. Honduras welcomed the establishment of an independent national human rights commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and of the Istanbul Convention.

79. Iceland commended Liechtenstein on progress regarding the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It welcomed projects aimed at raising awareness of the gender pay gap and at empowering and encouraging women to participate in political processes and public debate. It hailed the leadership role adopted by Liechtenstein in promoting accountability in the Syrian Arab Republic via the drafting of General Assembly resolution 71/248.

80. Indonesia commended Liechtenstein on the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles. It noted concrete efforts to integrate foreign nationals and migrants into society and measures taken to promote gender equality.

81. Iraq welcomed the consultative process leading to legislative reforms, direct democratic rights and the establishment of a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles.

82. Ireland hailed the strong commitment of Liechtenstein to protecting and promoting human rights at home and abroad. It welcomed the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, the ratification of human rights treaties and the standing invitation issued to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. It commended Liechtenstein for its commitment to tackling gender equality issues, highlighting the signature of the Istanbul Convention.

83. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and of the Istanbul Convention, and measures to promote gender equality and to combat violence against women.

84. Kyrgyzstan welcomed efforts to promote the rights of women and children, and supported the steps taken to improve the compatibility of family life and work. Kyrgyzstan also praised measures to combat violence against women and domestic violence, and to protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

85. Libya welcomed the engagement of Liechtenstein with the universal periodic review, which reflected its interest in a positive dialogue, and commended the progress made relating to human rights. It commended Liechtenstein for its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

86. Madagascar commended Liechtenstein for acceding to several international and European human rights instruments and for ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It noted with satisfaction the amendment to article 238 of the Criminal Code expanding the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination, and the narrowing of the wage gap between men and women. It encouraged Liechtenstein to continue those efforts.

87. Malaysia welcomed the establishment of a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and the amendment of the Criminal Code to include a broad definition of racial discrimination covering discrimination based on race, religion and nationality. It applauded Liechtenstein for integrating mutual understanding into, and addressing xenophobia through, the school curriculum.

88. Maldives welcomed the creation of an independent national human rights institution and the enactment of the law on the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association. It commended the progress made in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, including the Law on the Equality of Persons with Disabilities, and the related networking support group Sichtwechsel, which organized activities and raised awareness.

89. Mexico welcomed the signature of several human rights instruments, the openness of Liechtenstein to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the establishment of the independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and the amendment of article 283 of the Criminal Code to punish incitement to hatred or discrimination on all grounds.

90. Mongolia commended the adoption of the law on the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association and the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles. Mongolia welcomed measures taken to ensure gender equality in the labour market and encouraged Liechtenstein to continue its efforts to fully implement the relevant legislation.

91. Montenegro welcomed the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles. It appreciated efforts to ensure equality

between women and men. However, Montenegro noted the concerns of some treaty bodies and encouraged Liechtenstein to intensify its efforts to eliminate stereotypes in the family and in society, and to increase the representation of women in political and decision-making positions. It urged Liechtenstein to enhance implementation of the Law on the Equality of Persons with Disabilities, in order to ensure that their rights were fully protected. Montenegro commended Liechtenstein for its continuous support to OHCHR.

92. Mozambique commended Liechtenstein for the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous review, in particular the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and the signature and ratification of several international and European human rights instruments, such as two of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It noted with appreciation the improvement of women's representation in the Government and the launch of the "Women Decide" project.

93. Myanmar applauded the positive engagement of Liechtenstein with the United Nations human rights treaties, and encouraged it to continue implementing the conventions to which it had become a party. However, Myanmar expressed concern about reports of unequal career opportunities for women, low representation of women in political life and domestic violence against women.

94. Namibia commended Liechtenstein for the legislative initiatives relating to human rights launched since the previous review, including the establishment of a national human rights institution. It encouraged Liechtenstein to redouble its efforts to combat racism, discrimination and gender inequality, and to ensure the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.

95. The Netherlands commended Liechtenstein for its active and leading role in establishing an International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic. It also welcomed the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles.

96. New Zealand commended Liechtenstein for its recent creation of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

97. The Philippines commended Liechtenstein for its adoption of the law on the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association and the Victims Assistance Act. It urged Liechtenstein to do more to develop a national gender equality strategy to address issues such as the low level of women's participation in public and political life. It supported the efforts of Liechtenstein to prevent racism, to promote tolerance and mutual understanding and to further integrate foreign nationals into society.

98. Portugal welcomed the delegation of Liechtenstein, thanked it for the presentation of the comprehensive national universal periodic review report and made a number of recommendations.

99. Qatar commended the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and applauded the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and efforts made to protect children.

100. The Republic of Korea stated that Liechtenstein had made significant progress in many areas since the previous review, in particular by creating an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

101. Morocco appreciated the efforts made by Liechtenstein in the area of gender equality, including through the increased representation of women in leadership positions. It welcomed the revision of the law on parents and children regulating joint custody, the efforts made to take care of, and to empower, older persons and the revision of the Law on Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance.

102. The head of the delegation of Liechtenstein thanked all the delegations that had participated in the universal periodic review for their valuable comments and recommendations.

103. Although there was no Islamophobia or discrimination against Muslims in Liechtenstein, the Government would continue to monitor the situation in that regard.

104. The Government had adopted draft amendments to legislation on political funding, in line with the recommendations of the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption, and public consultations were ongoing in that regard.

105. Liechtenstein was committed to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic, the International Criminal Court and the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression, which it had been the first country to ratify, in 2012.

106. In the very near future, the competent authorities would examine the universal periodic review recommendations in detail, in order to make proposals to the Government on how to follow up the process concretely. Maintaining the highest standards of human rights was of the utmost importance to the Government. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue had shown Liechtenstein that work remained to be done.

107. The head of delegation stated that she was personally committed to ensuring an ambitious follow-up process to the recommendations, in which Liechtenstein planned to involve civil society.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

108. **The following recommendations will be examined by Liechtenstein, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

108.1 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Spain) (Iraq) (Honduras) (Ukraine); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, signed in 2007 (Germany);**

108.2 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal);**

108.3 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal) (Honduras);**

108.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Afghanistan) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (Philippines);**

108.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain) (Montenegro);**

108.6 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Namibia);**

108.7 **Sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Italy); Sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Liechtenstein's next universal periodic review (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

108.8 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Philippines) (Namibia) (Qatar) (Republic of Moldova);**

108.9 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Albania);**

108.10 **Become a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Canada); Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Netherlands) (Montenegro) (Iceland) (France) (Chile) (Côte d'Ivoire) (Spain) (Sierra Leone) (Honduras);**

108.11 **Ratify and fully implement its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (New Zealand);**

108.12 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Ghana);**

108.13 **Step up efforts to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Brazil);**

108.14 **Consider signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Andorra);**

108.15 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Estonia) (Mongolia) (Ukraine);**

108.16 **Continue the efforts made in the area of ratification of international instruments, such as ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Morocco);**

108.17 **Speed up ratification process of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Georgia);**

108.18 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Andorra) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Slovenia) (Estonia);**

108.19 **Ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

108.20 **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**

108.21 **Contribute to the efforts deployed by other States to combat systems to evade taxes and taxation abuses taking into account their impact on human rights, in particular, by ensuring that private foundations are bound by such measures (Ecuador);**

108.22 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

108.23 **Envisage the possibility of becoming a member State of the International Labour Organization, and of ratifying its fundamental conventions, as previously recommended (Uruguay);**

108.24 **Strengthen its existing constructive cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies (Myanmar);**

108.25 **Proceed with obtaining accreditation for its national human rights institution from the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (Qatar);**

108.26 **Enact policies to ensure the adequate and independent resourcing of its national human rights institution, in accordance with its obligations under the Paris Principles (Australia);**

108.27 **Continue efforts to provide adequate resources for the work of the national human rights institution of Liechtenstein (Qatar);**

108.28 **Encourage Liechtenstein's national human rights institution to actively engage with similar mechanisms from other regions (Indonesia);**

108.29 **Consider establishing, or strengthening the existing, national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with the elements arising from good practices identified in the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Portugal);**

108.30 **Adopt a new National Action Plan on Violence against Women in follow-up to the Plan that had been adopted in 2006 (Kyrgyzstan);**

108.31 **Continue taking measures towards creating comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that would include all prohibited grounds for discrimination (Ukraine);**

108.32 **Consider putting in place overarching anti-discrimination legislation covering all aspects of discrimination (Senegal);**

108.33 **Put in place the necessary means to enable the effective implementation of the provisions related to the fight against discrimination based on colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion or language (Algeria);**

108.34 **Take appropriate steps to fully implement the National Action Plan against Racism (Namibia);**

108.35 **Consider further measures to monitor and report on the human rights of older persons (Australia);**

108.36 **Ensure that the Equal Opportunities Office is adequately resourced to implement the National Action Plan against Racism (Sierra Leone);**

108.37 **Ensure the dissemination to the public of information on the new provisions of the Criminal Code on the fight against discrimination, train lawyers in their implementation and continue efforts aimed at combating discrimination (France);**

108.38 **Adopt legislative and political measures in order to establish a legal and institutional framework against all forms of discrimination (Honduras);**

108.39 **Continue to address the problems of racial discrimination and xenophobia, particularly when directed against Muslims (Malaysia);**

108.40 **Do more to prevent and combat racial discrimination (Mozambique);**

108.41 **Adopt educational measures to foster equality and non-discrimination and implement diversity programmes that promote ethnic and religious tolerance (Portugal);**

108.42 **Include in its domestic legislation a comprehensive prohibition of all forms of discrimination and effective mechanisms to sanction any violation of this prohibition (Spain);**

108.43 **Continue its efforts to combat instances of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and to improve social inclusion (Australia);**

108.44 **Repeal the Foreigners Act, in particular article 49, and amend the legislative framework to provide comprehensive protection from all forms of discrimination and hatred based on colour, origin, nationality, religion and language, in particular in the area of education (Syrian Arab Republic);**

108.45 **Exercise due diligence before registering business entities that are involved in illegal economic activities and human rights violations in uncontrolled, conflict-affected territories (Azerbaijan);**

108.46 **Increase official development assistance, with a view to meeting the international commitment of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (Sierra Leone);**

108.47 **Move forward in establishing a public policy framework that binds companies to comply with international human rights standards and environmental regulations at the international level (Mexico);**

108.48 **Ensure that private foundations based in Liechtenstein are subject to the necessary regulations, in order to contribute to efforts to combat corruption and tax evasion and tax abuse schemes (Portugal);**

108.49 **Ensure its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses with regard to conflict situations, including situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);**

108.50 **Halt the policy of employing coercive, unilateral measures in respect of other countries, and lift these measures immediately, given that they are punishment measures, taken by internal government decision, which have exceeded the borders of Liechtenstein and which have violated the rights of the people in the countries concerned, in flagrant contravention of the provisions of article 1 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and of article 1 (2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Syrian Arab Republic);**

108.51 **Continue working to harmonize domestic legislation with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

108.52 **Adopt effective measures to improve conditions in prisons (China);**

108.53 **Incorporate into domestic criminal law a distinct crime of torture, in conformity with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**

108.54 **Incorporate into the Criminal Code the prohibition of torture, in line with article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);**

108.55 **Repeal the articles contained in the Code on the Execution of Sentences providing for the detention of children in solitary confinement (Syrian Arab Republic);**

108.56 **Continue to build capacity and resilience among law enforcement personnel and the criminal justice system in support of target 7 of Sustainable Development Goal 8 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

108.57 **Change investigative procedures to ensure prompt access to legal or other appropriate assistance for juvenile detainees, in order to preclude questioning without a lawyer or trusted person being present (United States of America);**

108.58 **Guarantee legal protection measures for all persons who are the subject of a judicial placement decision (Algeria);**

108.59 **Initiate the application of innovative approaches and technological innovations for the efficient, accountable and transparent delivery of public services (Azerbaijan);**

108.60 **Amend legislation to improve the respect of the rights of defendants, by creating a custody registry at Vaduz police station, by systematically ensuring access to a lawyer, and by guaranteeing the confidentiality of discussions between lawyers and their clients in detention (France);**

108.61 **Harmonize the domestic legislation on communication surveillance with international human rights standards and, in particular, ensure that every case of communication surveillance is justified, necessary and proportionate (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

108.62 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee that the operations of intelligence bodies are subjected to scrutiny by an independent monitoring mechanism (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

108.63 **Decriminalize defamation and include it in the Civil Code, in accordance with international standards (Estonia);**

108.64 **Introduce adequate accounting rules and forms applying to the funding of all political parties and election campaigns (Germany);**

108.65 **Adopt special measures, such as a gender parity system, for nominations for government bodies, to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in elected and appointed political bodies (Portugal);**

108.66 **Encourage the political participation of women by adopting, where needed, special temporary measures, such as the setting of quotas, in order to increase the participation of women in political decisions-making positions (Chile);**

108.67 **Ensure a balanced representation of both genders in political bodies (Ukraine);**

108.68 **Continue efforts to achieve balanced gender representation in leadership and decision-making positions in elected and appointed political bodies (Republic of Korea);**

108.69 **Continue to take measures against human trafficking by adopting a gender-sensitive asylum procedure that responds to the specific needs of women and girl victims of trafficking (Maldives);**

108.70 **Strengthen measures to develop an effective and comprehensive policy to overcome the gap regarding the functions and responsibilities of women and men in the labour sphere (Argentina);**

108.71 **Further step up efforts to achieve gender equality by encouraging enterprises to take positive measures to narrow the gender pay gap, including regarding women's access to managerial positions (Ireland);**

108.72 **Continue with the efforts to effectively address the gender pay gap, including by strengthening the availability of childcare services and by providing paternity leave and paid parental leave (Slovenia);**

108.73 **Continue efforts to improve the compatibility of work and family life by increasing the availability of, and access to, services such as childcare, and by exploring the establishment of paid parental leave (Canada);**

108.74 **Take measures to further promote the compatibility of work and family life, inter alia, by increasing the number of day-care facilities for children and by introducing paid parental leave (Germany);**

108.75 **Continue to improve the availability and quality of day-care services, in order to better support women in the labour market and to encourage greater women's participation in the workforce (Singapore);**

108.76 **Promote training for women in non-traditional fields and in areas that will provide them with equal career opportunities (Kyrgyzstan);**

108.77 **Take active measures to ensure that older persons are aware of the new services and benefits to which they are entitled as a result of the ongoing reform of old-age policies (Singapore);**

108.78 **Ease the very strict legislation on abortion (France);**

108.79 **Develop strategies to encourage greater school attendance among migrant children at the higher levels of learning (Sierra Leone);**

108.80 **Adopt measures aimed at promoting gender equality, diversity and non-discrimination in the area of education (Madagascar);**

108.81 **Enshrine the right to education in the national legal framework, namely the Constitution and the School Act (Republic of Korea);**

108.82 **Enshrine the right to education in its national legal framework, in the Constitution and in the School Act (Kyrgyzstan);**

108.83 **Implement measures to achieve, in practice, the equality defined in the country's legislation (Uruguay);**

108.84 **Increase efforts to combat discrimination against women in all areas of national life (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

108.85 **Continue implementing policies aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and at promoting gender equality, including in political and economic life, and address the wage gap between men and women (Namibia);**

108.86 **Continue to take effective measures to guarantee equality between men and women in terms of political representation and in the workplace (Indonesia);**

108.87 **Continue concerted efforts to ensure equality between men and women (Libya);**

108.88 **Continue implementing policies in the area of gender equality, with a focus on increasing women's participation in public and political life (Republic of Moldova);**

108.89 **Ensure the provision of adequate funding for important institutions working to prevent violence against women and providing services to victims of violence, such as the Liechtenstein Women's Home (Canada);**

108.90 **Take the necessary measures to prevent violence against women and ensure the effective protection of victims of domestic violence (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

108.91 **Take further measures to promote the representation of women in leadership and decision-making positions (Iceland);**

108.92 **Intensify its efforts to increase the participation of women in the public and private sectors, especially in decision-making positions (Uruguay);**

108.93 **Take further steps to promote gender equality and to increase women's representation in political and public life (China);**

108.94 **Continue its efforts to increase the representation of women in leadership and decision-making positions, as well as to promote their political participation (Ecuador);**

108.95 **Continue its efforts to improve the representation of women in politics and to ensure equality in the labour market (Maldives);**

108.96 **Encourage the representation of women in leadership positions in the economic and public sectors (Mexico);**

108.97 **Continue its efforts to promote women's rights and gender equality, especially in the labour market, and to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in elected and appointed political bodies (Germany);**

108.98 **Promote training for women in non-traditional fields and in areas that will provide them with equal career opportunities (Ghana);**

108.99 **Continue its work to even out the inequality in wages between men and women (Iceland);**

108.100 **Combat gender-based violence through awareness-raising and education-based programmes (Malaysia);**

108.101 **Take concrete steps to ensure equal job opportunities, to combat negative gender roles and stereotypes of women and men and to increase the**

representation of women in political and decision-making positions (Myanmar);

108.102 **Take appropriate steps aimed at fully funding and strengthening the Equal Opportunities Office (Namibia);**

108.103 **Develop a strategy to even out inequalities in wages between men and women and continue its efforts to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions (New Zealand);**

108.104 **Continue efforts to tackle violence and discrimination against women, and promote their inclusion in decision-making bodies and positions in political and economic areas (Morocco);**

108.105 **Continue its efforts relating to, and adopt a national strategy on, gender equality and women's rights, the implementation of which would allow for, inter alia, the increased participation of women in political and public life, an adequate balance between work and private life, less restrictive access to abortion and the reduction of domestic violence (Switzerland);**

108.106 **Take further steps to ensure the equal treatment of minorities and the integration of all into society, including through targeted legislative measures (New Zealand);**

108.107 **Adopt the necessary measures to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities in the exercise of their rights (Madagascar);**

108.108 **Ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities to access justice, education and employment are guaranteed and respected (Madagascar);**

108.109 **Take the necessary steps to ensure that all children with disabilities are given equal opportunities in education (State of Palestine);**

108.110 **Take meaningful steps to ensure that all public buildings and schools are made accessible to persons with disabilities (United States of America);**

108.111 **Continue pursuing appropriate policies, including awareness-raising campaigns, in order to prevent the marginalization of persons with disabilities, and ensure the protection of their rights (Bulgaria);**

108.112 **Provide legislative protection for migrant women and girls, asylum seekers and victims of trafficking (Syrian Arab Republic);**

108.113 **Enhance knowledge and awareness among State officials of the importance of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

108.114 **Remove legal obstacles to the permanent residence of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the territory of Liechtenstein, especially obstacles related to the knowledge of the German language and to non-reliance on social benefits as preconditions to the issuance of permanent residence permits (Brazil);**

108.115 **Ensure full implementation of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Afghanistan);**

108.116 **Ensure that exclusion from refugee status is limited in law and in practice to the reasons exhaustively laid down in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and ensure that asylum seekers have full access to an effective remedy against the first instance decision on their asylum claim (Côte d'Ivoire);**

108.117 **Facilitate legal representation for asylum seekers (United States of America);**

108.118 **Further reinforce measures for the inclusion of a gender-sensitive approach in asylum procedures (Georgia);**

108.119 **Guarantee that all persons in need of international protection effectively have access to family reunification, by eliminating administrative obstacles (Argentina);**

108.120 **Revise its asylum procedure taking into account gender issues, in order to adopt specific measures that ensure an effective response to the specific protection needs of women and girls who could become victims of trafficking (Honduras);**

108.121 **Improve special procedures concerning asylum seekers (Iraq);**

108.122 **Establish comprehensive protection mechanisms, in order to strengthen the protection and promotion of the rights of migrants and asylum seekers in the country (Mexico);**

108.123 **Ensure a gender-sensitive approach during the refugee status determination procedure that enables victims of sexual or gender-based violence to be identified (Netherlands);**

108.124 **Introduce a subsidiary protection status for those in need of international protection who fall outside the scope of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Portugal);**

108.125 **Provide training to authorities involved in asylum procedures on identifying and dealing with victims of trafficking and gender-specific violence, in order to protect asylum-seeking female migrants who may be overlooked and risk becoming victims of trafficking (Republic of Korea);**

108.126 **Grant nationality to children born in Liechtenstein who would otherwise be stateless (Sierra Leone).**

109. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Liechtenstein was headed by Ms. Aurelia Frick, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Martin Frick, Ambassador, Director of the Office for Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Peter Matt, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Karin Lingg Giorgetta, Head of the Unit for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, Office for Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Kathrin Nescher-Stützel, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Hugo Risch, Director of the Office of Social Services;
- Mr. Andreas Schädler, Head of the Crime Investigation Division, National Police;
- Mr. Christian Blank, Head of the Asylum Division, Migration and Passport Office;
- Ms. Eva-Maria Schädler, Office of Education.